



Be Honest With Yourself, Part 2
(The Truth About My Private Issues)
(Anger & Lust — Matthew 5:21–30)

“Whoever is angry with his brother...whoever looks at a woman to lust for her...”*(Matthew 5:22, 28)*

Date: January 11, 2025

Monthly Summary:

In Matthew 5, Jesus confronts the **inner life** before outward behavior:

1. **The Truth About My Attitude** *(The Beatitudes — Matthew 5:3–12)*
2. **The Truth About My Private Issues** *(Anger & Lust — Matthew 5:21–30)*
3. **The Truth About My Relationships** *(Retaliation & Love — Matthew 5:38–48)*
4. **The Truth About My Identity** *(Salt & Light — Matthew 5:13–16)*

Text: Matthew 5:21–30

Big Question: *What am I pretending is under control?*

Monthly Context Reminder:

Note: Jesus is still dealing with the inner life before public behavior.

1. Attitude *(Matt. 5:3–12)*
2. **Private Issues** *(Matt. 5:21–30) ← Today*
3. Relationships *(Matt. 5:38–48)*
4. Identity *(Matt. 5:13–16)*

I. Jesus Redefines the Real Problem

A. Matthew 5:21–22 (NIV)

- “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”

B. Matthew 5:27–28 (NIV)

- “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”



Note: Jesus shifts the conversation from:

- What you did to
- What you're feeding

Note: Sin does not start in public —It starts in **private permission.**

Greek Insight That Simplifies the Issue:

Anger in Greek: *orgizō* (ὀργίζω) Means: *settled anger, stored resentment*

- Not a flash — **a condition**
- Anger that lives **rent-free** in your heart

Note: Jesus is not condemning emotion —He's confronting unresolved hostility.

Lust in Greek: *epithymēō* (ἐπιθυμέω)

- Means: *to fix your desire on*
- To **set your mind on repeatedly**
- Not noticing — **dwelling**
- Desire that keeps calling you back

Note: Lust is not attraction —It is **permission without restraint.**

Down-Home Meaning (Non-Bible Language)

*"The problem isn't what crossed your mind —
it's what you keep rehearsing."*

Note: Private rehearsals eventually demand public performances.

II. Samson — A Case Study in Private Issues

Samson did not lose his strength suddenly. He **gave it away gradually**.

A. Samson's Pattern

- He saw what he wanted (*Judges 14:1–2*)
- He touched what he was forbidden to touch (*Judges 14:8–9*)
- He stayed where he should not have stayed (*Judges 16:1*)
- He told what he should have guarded (*Judges 16:17*)
- Every step looked small
- Every step weakened him

B. Samson's Self-Deception

"I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free."
(*Judges 16:20*)



“But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.”

Samson thought:

- The power was automatic
- The strength was permanent
- The consequences were negotiable

Note: You don't lose strength first —you lose awareness first.

**III. Jesus' Extreme Language
Why So Serious?**

- **“If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out...”**
(Matthew 5:29)
- **“If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off...”**
(Matthew 5:30)

Note:

- Jesus is not promoting self-harm. He is teaching **decisive honesty**.
- Anything you refuse to confront will eventually **confront you**.

Down-Home Summary:

- “Stop managing what God is calling you to remove.”
- If you keep it, it will cost you more than you think.

Closing Truth:

Private honesty leads to:

- Public stability
- Spiritual clarity
- Long-term strength
- You don't have to be perfect —but you **do** have to be honest.

Closing Declaration:

**“Lord, help me confront what I've been feeding
so it doesn't destroy what You're building.”**

Next Time: January 18, 2026

The Truth About My Relationships (Retaliation & Love — Matthew 5:38–48)

“Love your enemies...”*(Matthew 5:44)*