

Anger & Murder, Lust & Adultery
Overcoming Sin and Hell
Matthew 5:21-30

Q: First of all, why is Jesus saying “But I say to you?” Does it mean anything? He’s going to keep saying that.

Jesus has all authority. As man and God, the “living Word,” Jesus has authority over the scriptures because He wrote it. Otherwise, where does the authority come from to say such a thing? Even if you doubted His divinity, such statements must come from a prophet.

Q: What is the difference between the word “Raca” and “fool” here?

Raca - contempt for another, “Empty-headed” fool
Fool - as with Psalm 14:1 an utter, godless fool, immoral, wicked

Q: If Jesus uses the same word in Matt 23:17 what is He getting at? Are we just watching our words?

The issue is one of the heart and why you say what you do (Matt 15:19)

Q: Why is hatred so severely punished?

To hate what God loves is a violent rebellion. It is in direct opposition to Him.

Q: Why doesn’t God want your gift?

First things first. If we can’t get the first two commandments correct what is the rest worth? What is the gift if you can’t love? (1 Cor 13:1-3). Do the 1st things, Rev 2:4-5. God also resists the proud. Are you too proud to try and reconcile with someone? (James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5)

Q: What do these lines about make peace with your adversary mean? How significant are they? Jesus is teaching spiritual things, how is this spiritual rather than literal.

This is the gospel call. Make peace with God or you will receive the inevitable punishment. Matt 4:17, Rom 6:23

Q: What is so wrong with lust? (The negative)

It is the violation of what is meant to be a sacred union between a man and a woman. One man, one woman. One desire. Desire for one. It is a violation of not just one commandment but two. One is adultery, the other is covetousness. We violate a sacred relationship but we also desire something that we do not have, in this case someone. Pleasure without intimacy is perversion.

Unity of desire. A man is made for a woman to complete a sacred unity. Bride and Bridegroom, uniting man and woman.

Q: How do we spiritually cut the source of adultery?

Rom 8:6, 13, & 12:1-2, 1 Cor 9:27 Eph 6:10-17, Col 3:1-10 Daily submission to what God says of it, armoring up, being wise to our adversary. Practically speaking, with any sin, we just never stop fighting. If we can help it, Rom 13:14, never allow it in in the first place.

Q: None of these truly work with our animal desires. What is the true cure for sin, especially the root of much of it, coveting other things?

Getting to know God and to love Him. Luke 7:36-50 (John 12:32)

Q: Why is marriage exalted?

Genesis 2:23-24, Ephesians 5:22-33 Unity of desire. A man is made for a woman to complete a sacred unity. Bride and Bridegroom, uniting man and woman. Marriage is the only relationship designed to perfectly mirror and reflect the glory of our right relationship with God. If it is lived correctly it points to God more than anything else in this world. Nothing should be a higher priority than this.