
Date: December 12, 2021 **Series:** Jesus' Most Famous Sermon

Message: Rethinking Righteousness, Pt. 2 **Scripture:** Matthew 5:27-37

"For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:20)

Adultery & Sexual Desire (vv. 27-30)

Divorce (vv. 31-32)

Oaths (vv. 33-37)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Matthew 5:27-37

1. Have you personally found the way the Christian church has traditionally taught about concepts like sexual desire, divorce, and speaking the truth to be helpful or harmful to you? Why? What is something you know now about these concepts that you wish you would've known when you were younger?
2. According to Jesus, what is going on in our minds and hearts whenever we sexually desire somebody outside of marriage? How would a person know if they have "committed adultery in their heart" (v. 28)?
3. Because our culture is so highly sexualized, how can one practically guard their eyes, their mind, and their heart in the area of sexual desire?
4. What do Jesus' words about divorce in vv. 31-32 and in Matthew 19:1-9 say about God's design for marriage? How has that design been marred by sin? What implications does that have on us today?
5. Verses 33-37 address how the Pharisees and teachers of the law would use loopholes in how they spoke and took oaths. How are you tempted today to find loopholes in how you speak?
6. At root, why do we lie or tell partial truths? What underlying motivations cause us to do this?
7. Which of Jesus' words or teachings in these verses do you find to be the most personally challenging?
8. Do you think it's possible for Christ-followers to not ever lust, divorce, or stretch the truth? Why or why not?