

# *Enjoying Freedom from the Spirit of Immorality (Mt. 5:27-30) Mike Bickle*

## **I. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: OVERVIEW**

- A. The call in the Sermon on the Mount is to live out the 8 beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-12). I compare these to 8 beautiful and fragrant flowers in the garden in our heart (2 Cor. 2:15-16). These flowers must be carefully and continually cultivated as we ***weed the garden by resisting the 6 negative influences*** related to our natural inward lusts (Mt. 5:21-48) plus we ***water it by adding the 5 positive nutrients*** related to being in His presence (Mt. 6:1-18) that impart supernatural strength to us (Eph. 3:16).
- B. Jesus the good shepherd is being helpful to His beloved. He is not railing against sin them but giving us unique revelation that will help and deliver us. Jesus is not intending to give comprehensive teaching on freedom of the heart, but rather focuses on two key points. In Mt. 5:28 He reveals that the spirit of immorality does not start in actions but rather in the mind/heart and that it is fueled by sight (looking with lust). Second, in Mt. 5:29-30, that we must make radical even costly and painful proactive decisions to remove whatever stirs up lust in our members. Even the that which we most cherished (people, place or things) must be removed from our lives when necessary. In other words, long before we encounter acts of immorality we make these hard decisions to remove what ever injures our garden (weeds in the garden of our heart). Jesus is not intending to give a comprehensive teaching on how to walk in freedom from the spirit of immorality but focused on the ***two most important and most neglected principles***. There are other key issues that need to be addressed in our quest for purity but they cannot substitute for these two most important principles.
- C. Jesus desires that we live in purity so that we might see God or encounter God in deeper and more consistent ways (Mt. 5:8). Resisting the spirit of immorality is essential in walking in the purity that is foundational to seeing or encountering Jesus in this way.
- D. It is our glory to live free from the torment, shame and destruction of the spirit of immorality. Jesus' passion in this passage was to communicate how we could experience this part of our spiritual inheritance. The Pharisees sought to minimize the seventh commandment (that commanded us to not commit adultery) to only include sexual intercourse.
- E. In great kindness, Jesus wanted His Bride to know that the destruction of the spirit of immorality works in all sexual activity (thought, word and deed) outside of the glory and sanctity of the marriage covenant between a man and woman. Jesus' desire was that we benefit is seen in His repetition of "*it is more profitable for you*" (Mt. 5:29, 30),

## **II. OUR HUMAN DESIGN IS FULLY INTEGRATED**

***Jesus...cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (Jn. 7:37-38)***

- A. Jesus gave us the conditions of believing in His in the Scripture says or requires (Jn. 7:38). We cannot isolate one part of our humanity to work on while neglecting obedience to God in other vital areas. Holiness or wholeness is the result of the 8 beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-12), 6 negatives (Mt. 5:21-48) and 5 positives (Mt. 6:1-18) being pursued together and in fellowship with other like minded believers to fulfill the conditions of believing (as the Scripture describes). In other words, some focus on isolating a few negatives to work on and remove while neglecting the other negatives and many of the positives. They do not grasp the mystery and beauty of the fully integrated human design.
1. Example #1 – to be healthy we cannot just avoid junk food (the negatives) without adding positive foods or we would become sick (anorexia) until we eventually died of starvation.
  2. Example #2 – If we want our cars to run, we cannot just remove the bad oil (negatives) without putting in new oil (positives) or our engines blow up.
- B. **Application** – the common focus of secular therapist is on anger and immorality yet neglecting the pursuit of the fasted life style of Mt. 6:1-18.

### III. HELL – CHURCH TODAY HAS A LOW VIEW OF HELL

*If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. (Mt. 5:29-30)*

**Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6:9-10)**

- A. When I have a strong biblical view of hell knowing God will send immoral to hell then my heart is more resolved in the matter. It removes options to know hell is real – it makes being resolved easier

### IV. THE GREAT END-TIME CONFLICT: CENTERED AROUND PASSION

- A. End-Time war: who rules the passions of the human heart? The Holy Spirit is restoring the First Commandment to first place in the Church. In Mt. 22:37, Jesus prophesied to Israel quoting Deut. 30:1-10, then He prayed for it in Jn. 17:26.

*Jesus said to him, You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. (Mt. 22:37-38)*

- B. Satan's primary strategy is to destroy the End-Time Church from within by seducing the Church to live in an adversarial spirit before God so that He will have to judge and destroy us (i.e., the way of Balaam, 2 Peter 2:15; Num. 22-25). Satan wants us to kill ourselves or put ourselves in the place where God must judge us. In other words, Satan is releasing an unprecedented measure of the spirit of immorality which is the ultimate counterfeit to God's plan to establish the End-Time Church in wholehearted love for Jesus. This strategy destroys the soul of the Church as it provides Satan legal access to enter the human domain through these open windows for demonic activity (Rev. 9:21; 14:8; 17:1-4; 18:2-4, 9-10; 19:2).

***For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication... (Rev. 19:2)***

- C. Immorality defiles the body making it a vessel of darkness giving Satan legal access to dominate.

***Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against (by granting legal access to Satan defile) his own body. (1 Cor. 6:18)***

***Do not be deceived...neither fornicators...nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves...nor drunkards...will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6:9-10)***

***Sexually immoral...liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire (Rev. 21:8)***

***Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city...outside are...sexually immoral...(Rev. 22:14-15)***

## V. SPIRIT OF IMMORALITY: OPERATES IN THE MIND AS IT IS FUELED BY SIGHT

***You have heard that it was said..., 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Mt. 5:27-28)***

- A. We must act in the opposite spirit which involves a comprehensive lifestyle (thought, word and deed). To do this involves establishing inward boundaries in making a covenant with our eyes, and outward boundaries in refusing to be in situations which inflame lusts and then embracing the reality of the need for denying ourselves the freedom to walk out lustful urges. This was not meant to be a comprehensive presentation of the path to freedom, but a focus on the area that is most commonly neglected: stepping over necessary boundaries.
- B. Jesus exposed how the operation of the spirit of immorality operates being rooted first in the mind/heart (sexual imaginations/fantasies) that is fueled by sight or "looking with lust"(in person or through media). ***As we can operate in the spirit of murder with words, so we operate in the spirit of immorality with thoughts.*** The spirit of immorality originates from words and thoughts ***fueled by sight*** until it defiles the body by giving Satan legal access to enter, making us a "carrier" of demonic activity.

***Those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications... (Mt 15:18-19)***

- C. We must establish inward boundaries in making a covenant with our eyes. ***Principle:*** sexual purity and control is established first in area of the eyes. ***The progression of adultery:*** eye adultery leads to heart-adultery then to getting into circumstances that help physical adultery. Jesus wants us to understand the role of the eye gate as the primary battle front for stopping the operation of the spirit of immorality. It is much easier to close the eye gate than to try to put out the raging fires of immoral passions. Job understood the spirit of the seventh commandment and the power of eye adultery.
- I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman? 9 If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbor's door...(Job 31:1, 9)***
- D. One of the most practical proactive means of waging an effective war against the spirit of immorality is in establishing a covenant with our eye gate. David affirmed that the eye gate was the battle front to walk perfect (mature) before God (Mt. 5:48)
- I will behave wisely in a perfect way. Oh, when will You come to me (greater intimacy with God)? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. 3 I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. (Ps. 101:2-3)***
- E. The false leaders in the Church were characterized by living defiled in the arena of the eye gate.
- Having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. (2 Pet. 2:14)***
- F. You have heard that it was said..., 'You shall not commit adultery' – Jesus is pointing how the Pharisees only consider immorality a problem when it reached its extremes in sexual intercourse. In other words, the Pharisees sought to minimize the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment only to the act of sexual intercourse. ***A common question concerns how far one can go in lust before God considers it immorality.*** In other words, where is the line? This question is proof that darkness still has strong hold in the mind of those asking this sincere question. This is like asking the question, how much cancer can I inject or how much poison can I drink before it is dangerous. All traces or expressions of the spirit of immorality will injure our heart and minimize our ability to enjoy the manifest presence of God.
- G. In great kindness, Jesus was revealing the destructive nature of the spirit of immorality and how it operated in all sexual activity (thought, word and deed) outside of the marriage covenant. Jesus' desire was that we benefit is seen in His repetition of ***"it is more profitable for you"*** (Mt. 5:29-30).

## VI. ESTABLISHING BOUNDARIES – NOT SPARING WHAT IS MOST VALUABLE TO US

***If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. (Mt. 5:29-30)***

A. We must acting in the opposite spirit which involves a comprehensive lifestyle (thought, word and deed). To do this involves establishing inward boundaries in making a covenant with our eyes, and outward boundaries in refusing to be in situations which inflame lusts and then embracing the reality of the need for denying ourselves the freedom to walk out lustful urges. This was not meant to be a comprehensive presentation of the path to freedom, but a focus on the area that is most commonly neglected: stepping over necessary boundaries.

B. We must also look outward to establish outward boundaries in refusing to go to places or be in situations which inflame lusts. By lacking spiritual discernment, we easily agree to be in seemingly “innocent or harmless” situations that surprise us when end up acting out various expressions of immorality. We are much too easy on ourselves believing we are okay without need of boundaries.

***Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness (open doors giving legal access to Satan)...19 For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness...leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness. (Rom. 6:13, 19)***

1. It defiles the body making it a vessel of darkness giving Satan legal access to enter and dominate.

***Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against (by granting legal access to Satan defile) his own body. (1 Cor. 6:18)***

2. Being ruthlessly honest in refusing to stir lust by identifying it as “innocent touching.”

***It is good for a man not to touch a woman. (1 Cor. 7:1)***

C. We must seriously embrace denying ourselves by refusing to walk out lustful urges.

***If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross...(Mt. 16:24)***

***If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live. (Rom. 8:13)***

***Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Gal. 5:24)***

***Do not let sin reign in your mortal body (open doors that give legal access to Satan), that you should obey it in its lusts. (Rom. 6:12)***

***Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire....6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming... Col. 3:5-6)***

***I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (1 Cor. 9:27)***

## VII. SUMMARY: OPERATING IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT OF IMMORALITY WITH PURE EYES

- A. Our human design is fully integrated. We cannot isolate one part of our humanity to work on while neglecting obedience to God in other vital areas. All 8 beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-12), 6 negatives (Mt. 5:21-48) and 5 positives (Mt. 6:1-18) must be pursued together and in fellowship with other like minded believers to fulfill the conditions of believing in Jesus as the Scripture describes. In other words, some focus on isolating a few negatives to work on and remove while neglecting the other negatives and many of the positives. **Application** – the common focus on healing our anger and immorality often neglects the pursuit of the 8 beatitudes, the other six negatives and especially the fasted life style of Mt. 6:1-18.
- B. Many issues contribute to being free from the spirit of immorality - ***looking backward***: dealing with areas of bitterness related to injustice; ***looking inward***: communion with the Holy Spirit; ***looking upward***: heavenly reward (Mt. 6:18-20; Col. 3:1-4, 23-24); ***looking forward***: End-Times (prepared by understanding the coming glory and crisis: 2 Pet. 3:14); ***looking to others***: accountable open relationships (confession of weakness); ***looking outward***: establishing boundaries (avoiding circumstances that stir up unholy passions) (Rom. 6:12, 13, 16, 19; Col. 3:5-10)
- C. It increases in corruption (shame, oppression and perversion now and leading to judgment later). ***Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption...*** (Gal. 6:7-8)