

Matthew 5.27-30 – “Adultery of the Heart”

“The trouble is that because of sin we tend to pervert everything” -Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“For I know that nothing good dwells in me. That is, in my flesh; for the willing is present within me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want... Wretched man I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ out Lord!” - Paul of Tarsus in his letter to the Romans

V.27 You have heard...

“Looking at a woman lustfully does not cause men to commit adultery in his thoughts. He already has committed adultery in his heart. It is not lustful looking that causes the sin in the heart, but the sin in the heart causes lustful looking. ...The heart is the soil where the seeds of sin are imbedded and begin to grow” - John MacArthur

V.29-30 If your right eye... Jesus is not talking about maiming ourselves in order to create some vicious and external boundary to sin. These sorts of boundaries will always eventually fail, because they do not fix the heart – they rather try to *redirect* it. We are primarily dealing with an *affection/allegiance* issue. Our hearts must instead be *replanted*.

So how do we do that? How move forward in His grace? Paul helps us in Romans 7 & 8 through a very revealing look at his life, and in describing those very pains and struggles he also points us toward the way home.

- 1) **Romans 7.14-20** – Acknowledge our deep, and desperate need (Jer 17.9)
- 2) **Romans 7.21-25** – See, believe, and trust in His victory over of sin and death
- 3) **Romans 8.1-27** – Through the trust you have in His work, walk forward in the power of the Spirit (see Phil. 3.12-18), and put to death the deeds of death.
How? *By using the same pattern that sin has perverted.* The leaves/branches of righteousness sprout from a trunk of the Word, prayer, and obeying the command to go and disciple others to live in a like manner. It is then that the promise of deep roots planted by streams of water (Ps 1; Jer. 17.5-8) comes to fruition. The cause, allegiance and roots are different, the outpouring is even more so, and so, the end result is as well. We must not *just flee from sin* (Heb. 12.1; Eph. 4.17-32; Phil. 3.7-11; Col. 3.1-11) *we also must run after Him* (Heb. 12.2-3; Eph. 5.1-21; Phil. 3.12-21; Col. 3.12-17). We cannot remain or try to get back to “neutral” (Luke 16.13). We must *grow up* through knowing & trusting Him more via the Word, living life together, and then pray that *He will drive our roots deep into His soil* (see v.26-27; 2 Kings 19.30; Ps. 80.7-10). It is then (and only then) we will experience the freedom that comes from being children of God, assured that He really does love us, and desires for us to be *fully satisfied* in Him (Jn 6.48).
- 4) **Romans 8.28-39** – And because of that, we can and do trust that *He will work it all to good to those who love God* (see 1 Jn 4.7-20), and that the deep roots in our lives that cause us to sin are uprooted by the work of Christ. We now lay claim to the promises in v.31-39 – Christ not only was offered up as a payment for our sins, but now also intercedes on our behalf – and we will never, be separated from Him as we follow Him through the power He ordained, paid for, and now, asks for on our behalf, even when we have no idea how to ask

Because we never have known how to ask. So He first loved us.

Announcements

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Foundations Class today!**Advent Conspiracy Mall starts next week - Dec. 6th****Communities:**

This is where we gather to pray, study and encourage one another as part of the work of the Gospel. We would love to get to know you more, and this is one of the best ways to get planted /attached as a part of Seaside.

Please consider joining a Community to strengthen not only your family, but also the larger community.

Contact
eric@seasidechurch.com
for info on where groups meet or to lead/host one.

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