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“The Heart of the Matter” Sermon Series (Sermon on the Mount)

“Honoring Your Vows” (Matthew 5:27-32)

Introduction:

-Introduced the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-2)

-“The Great Contradiction” (The Beatitudes) (Matthew 5:3-12)

-“Being Salty and Shine” (Matthew 5:13-16)

-“Become Greater” (Matthew 5:17-20)

-Last week’s message: “There’s Been a Murder”

1. The sin of Murder is not an external act but includes your heart’s motives and attitudes

2. The Punishment of Murder is not ultimately decided by earthly courts but by our Lord God.

3. If we truly obey the law, we must not only avoid the negatives but also pursue the positives.

\*We should always pursue reconciliation and friendship in all of our relationships.

-Today’s message we will explore two very important and relevant topics that our church and the church needs to have answers for and issues that need serious consideration: Lust and Divorce.

-According to Cybersecurity: Over 28,000 web users is watching pornography every second. Over 3 million dollars is spent on porn every second on the internet. 40 million Americans and 35% of all internet downloads are related to pornography.

-According to Forbes Magazine, about half of marriages end in divorce, second marriage 67% and 73% of third marriages. Divorce Rates has decline since the year 2000 but less Americans are getting married has well, this is according to the US Census Bureau. The The state with the highest women for divorcing in 2022 according to a Bowling Green State University study was Arkansas. 23.27 women divorcing per 1000 married women.

-Remember the two issues Jesus is addressing in the “You have heard…” but “I say to you” messages:

1. People have heard different things from the Old Testament but not all have been taught correctly.

2. People limited Old Testament Commandments to external actions, not inward righteousness. Jesus reveals the true intention of the law as regards to the heart.

-Let’s look at the following passages of Scripture in our message “Honoring Your Vows”

I. The Real Meaning of Adultery (vv. 27-30)

A. Lust-The attitude behind the Act.

-Matthew 15:19: For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adulteries, fornication, thefts, false witness, slanders.

-2 Peter 2:14: having eyes full of adultery that never ceases from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children.

B. Response-Extreme Measure: get rid of anything that causes you to sin.

-Colossians 3:5-6: Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and greed which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience.

II. The Real Meaning of Divorce (vv. 31-32)

-Deuteronomy 24:1-4: When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts in in her hand and sends her out from his house and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man’s wife, and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife, then her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God gives you has an inheritance.

-Matthew 19:3-9: Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all? And he answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them Male and Female and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to His wife, and the two shall become one flesh?’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” They said to Him “Why then did Moses commanded to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?” He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality and marries another woman commits adultery.”

-2 Schools of thoughts

1. You could divorce only for unfaithfulness.

2. You could divorce for any reason (She burnt the Toast

-So in Chapters 5:31-32 and 19:3-9, is Jesus being literal or is he using this has one example of how divorce is permitted due to some sort of unfaithfulness? Is there a high standard to go by?

-The Key for us today I believe is this?

A. What God joins together, let no man separate.

B. A certificate of divorce does not necessarily mean you are divorced.

C. Divorce is permitted but not commanded after adultery.

D. We should always work toward reconciliation, if possible.

\*Here are some questions I have been asked in the past concerning divorce what if?

-What if going back to my spouse would likely cause harm (relapse or fall back to old habits)?

-Matthew: 5:29-30

-What about abuse, specifically domestic abuse (Physical, Sexual etc.)?

-According to Forbes: Prior to the Pandemic an estimated 30% of women globally, that’s over 1 Billion women can expect to experience sexual or physical violence in their lifetime by an intimate partner. Some have estimated that since the pandemic, domestic violence has increased globally by 25 to 33 percent.

-Ephesians 5:25-31: Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this reason a man shall leave His Father and Mother and shall be joined to his Wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

-What if my spouse was the one who initiated the divorce?

-Remember last week, you cannot control another person’s decision We should work toward reconciliation, if possible.

-What if you were the one who initiated the divorce because I just wanted the divorce. But now I am living as a disciple of Christ, but I remarried?

-The Sin of divorce is not unforgiveable. God grace and mercy is always sufficient.

-Remain with your current spouse because you have made vows to her. Two Wrongs does not make a right.

-John Ch. 4: The Samaritan Woman

-The woman had 5 husbands and the current man she lived with was not her husband.

-Did Jesus tell her, to go find your first husband?

-John 8:11: Go and sin no more.

Conclusion:

-Application

-Marriage is a lifelong commitment:

-Adultery breaks the commitment of sexual faithfulness.

-Divorce breaks the commitment of lifelong commitment.

-Therefore:

1. Guard Your Heart

-Proverbs 4:23: Watch over your heart with all diligence. For from it flow the Spring of Life.

-Psalm 119:9: How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to your word.

2. Watch Your Eyes

-Job 31:1: “I have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?

-Psalm 101:3: I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away.

3. Honor Your Marriage

-Malachi 2:15-16: But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. “For I hate divorce,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” say the Lord of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”