

DEMANDS OF THE KINGDOM!
MATT CH5:27-30

ILLUSTRATION

Jamie and the “Black Box” fitted to the car!

RE-CAP

The context of the “Sermon on the Mount” is one where JESUS has demonstrated power over Satan Ch4:1-11, power over calling His disciples Ch4:18-22, and power over the demonic Ch4:24 along with power over illness and sickness Ch4:24! JESUS is about to give a powerful message over the **reality** and **availability** of “Kingdom Life” for His followers!

The message (discourse), “Sermon on the Mount” gets its name from the geographical setting “went up on a mountainside” Ch5:1, somewhere in Galilee. The traditional view is that is in a place called “Tabghah”, near Capernaum, on a ridge of hills just to the west of the town. JESUS goes to a mountain as a special place of divine revelation several times in Matthew, Ch4:8 - Satan tempting JESUS, Ch5:1-2 – The Sermon on the Mount, Ch17:1 – The Transfiguration, Ch24:3 – The Mount of Olives and Ch28:16 – The mountain of the resurrection appearance and commission.

I want to apologise for last week, getting Geraint Thomas' name wrong, when I referred to him as Geraint Jones!

HEARD! V27 - V28

JESUS continues fulfilling the Law and the prophets of the Old Testament through His teaching, as He counteracts the false teachers teaching with true teaching! Where the religious leaders have got the wrong interpretation of the Law, “You have heard that it was said” (v21, v27, v31, v33, v38 + v43), JESUS continues to correct the false teaching when He says, “But I tell you (v18, v20, v22, v26, v28, v32, v34, v38, + v44!).

JESUS not only through His teaching exposes the anger that arises within God's grace community (v21-26), here He exposes the deeper problem of adultery, lust (v27-30)!

JESUS remains deeply committed and concerned about the purity of the Kingdom and its citizens!

HELL! V30

The term “Hell” in the Book of Matthew is mentioned 9 times by JESUS (Ch5:22, 29, 30, Ch10:28, Ch11:23, Ch16:18, Ch18:9, Ch23:15, 33). So what

does JESUS say Hell is like? JESUS says things like “will be in danger of the fire of Hell, Hell is where the soul and body are destroyed, go down to the depths, thrown into the fire of Hell, condemned to Hell”.

Hell, based on what Scripture tells us is a place of eternal conscious punishment for the wicked (Ch25:30, Ch25:41, Ch25:46). What the Bible teaches us about Hell, should make us realise the “hugeness” of the evil that is found in sin and rebellion against God, and the magnitude of the holiness and the justice of God that calls forth this kind of punishment.

JESUS in exposing the real problem of adultery, lust, uses the biggest deterrent at His disposal, Hell! JESUS knows that as we are taken captive by “lust” all reality of God and His will is forgotten!

HELP! V29 – V30

If your right causes you to sin take radical action! Not literally speaking, as in gouge it out or cut it off, but figuratively speaking, take radical action! Immediate, decisive, and deliberate action, JESUS says act radically and act now, or you could go to Hell!

What can this immediate, decisive and deliberate action look like?

APPLICATION

Firstly, understand what God's will is for you! Purity within God's rescued, redeemed community is extremely important to God, just look at how JESUS exposes the deeper problem around adultery, lust and look at how severe the magnitude of the punishment is for those who refuse to listen and obey JESUS, Hell. Let's be crystal clear, ***an uncontrolled body goes to hell!*** So we need to get our bodies under control, four times the word “body” is used in v29 + v30. How do we get our bodies under control?

The discipline of purity is needed!

Accountability – Talk openly to your wife/husband or a trusted Christian friend.

Prayer – Cultivate daily prayer for your own purity, asking God for help!

Memorisation – Fill yourself with God's Word to combat temptation, remember how JESUS defeated Satan Ch4:1-11, referring to God's written Word on three occasions!

Mind – Renew your mind with memory verses - Job Ch31:1

Hedges – Develop Biblical Hedges – For example, how do we protect ourselves from temptation when it comes to what we watch on our T.V. screens, computers, phones, etc?