

## Matthew 5:27-37 | adultery and divorce

### 1. Control your heart's desires (27-30)

#### "You have heard" adultery is wrong

Jesus quotes emphatic commandment in Exodus 20:14 against adultery

Sex with another person who is not your spouse is wrong

#### But so is lust

To look lustfully – to view in order to desire sex or intimacy with someone not your wife

Wrong in essence - desiring something God has not given you

Start of a journey heart to actual adultery

Leads to discontentment, and confusion

#### So you need to take radical action

Cut off right eye/hand (not literally): make radical sacrifices to deal with sin

Avoid those things that provoke lust: places, programmes, pornography

Remember God's grace

### 2. Keep Your Promises

#### Honour Your Marriage Vows (31-32)

Deut 24:1 gives a process when divorce was necessary for "indecency" = immorality/adultery

Jewish men divorcing for all kinds of trivial reasons, claiming they were still keeping the law

**I tell you:** only applies in very limited set of circumstances.

You are abusing it and making women, in a male let culture have to go and get married again and in effect to commit adultery, making them victims

Are you working hard to honour marriage and to work hard to preserve good marriages?

God's way is best: we all thrive in good faithful marriages, divorce and separation leaves scars

Remember God's grace if we have been unfaithful or ended in a situation of divorce

#### Honour all your promises (Oaths 33-37)

Background was an elaborate system of oaths, not all needed to be kept

Jesus says do not use God to validate your oaths, simply keep your word

Do you keep promises, in marriage, work, relationships, service. Are you a reliable witness?