

LIVING THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: **BROKEN BOUNDARIES**

SERMON DISCUSSION FOR SUNDAY JUNE 28, 2015 | SPEAKER: PASTOR RON GORMONG

SERMON DISCUSSION

Ice Breaker (Everyone): Aside from water, what is your go-to beverage of choice?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Pastor Ron had the congregation take a couple minutes to reflect on what God spoke to them last week regarding Anger.

Are you able to connect Sunday Morning sermons with your life during the week? Why or why not?

SCRIPTURE

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. (Matthew 5:27-30 ESV)

UPPING THE ANTE

In the religious system in which Jesus’ original audience lived, adultery was an external issue. As long as you didn’t sleep with someone not your spouse, you were fine. Righteous. However, Jesus comes along and significantly ups the issue. This is consistent with His earlier statements in Matthew 5:17-20:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them... unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)

The Pharisees were known for being strict with the letter of the Law. How then could it be possible to *exceed* their righteousness? It is made possible by an enlightenment which surpasses the letter of the law and illuminates the spirit of the law. What is the illumination Jesus shares? “...everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent...” Jesus goes from your *actions* all the way to your *intentions*. So lust in your heart is a BIG DEAL. It is not a “victimless crime” Does this mean we wear blindfolds? No. Healthy intent can include a recognition of beauty and the image of God in another, but unhealthy intent includes selfish ambition and objectification of another.

Why did God need to go into human intentions? Why wasn’t a “do not” action enough?

What is your understanding of appreciation of another human being vs lust?

THE ANATOMY OF LUST

Step One: DESIRE

Pastor Ron shares that the Hebrew word for soul is *nephesh* and is sometimes translated as stomach, throat, or mouth throughout scripture. This shows a strong connection between the soul and craving. Each human being has been created with an innate desire to be satisfied. It is like getting home from work at night and desiring sweets or popcorn, only we are talking about soul satisfaction. So it is not wrong to desire in of itself—that's how we are wired. Lust is when our appropriate desires are inappropriately fulfilled.

What does it actually look like to satisfy ourselves with God?

Step Two: LOOKING

When we look at something, we are receiving from it—beauty, interest, information, pleasure, disgust. When we look with lustful intent, we are using our eyes to receive illegitimate satisfaction and false pleasure. Which leads to step three.

Step Three: IMAGINATION

In lust, a person takes what they have illegitimately received through the eyes and allow it to grow and fill our minds and hearts.

Pastor Ron didn't mention this, but I wanted to share a scripture that kept coming to mind while he was sharing:

*...each person is tempted when he is **lured** and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has **conceived** gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully **grown** brings forth death.* (James 1:14-15 ESV)

1. We are lured by desire to inappropriate places of fulfillment.
2. By looking with the wrong intent we impregnate the desire and it gives birth to sin.
3. With the imagination we feed and grow the sin which leads to death.

If this is the case, how does one prevent the “sin of lust”? How could a person stop before moving onto the further steps?

PRACTICAL HELP

Pastor Ron proposes that if Jesus is right in saying “pluck out your eye if it causes you to sin” then we ought to figure out what that means in our lives. Though few have ever considered Jesus to have meant one should mutilate themselves, all have realized Jesus is explaining the seriousness in which this issue must be taken and the intensity of the measures necessary to see it through.

1. If movies cause you to stumble, give them up.
2. If certain members of the opposite sex trip you up, give up meeting.
3. If you need to give up the Internet completely, do it.

It may feel as bad as plucking out an eye or cutting off a hand, but it is better than the alternative Jesus shares.

To what degree do you think we ought to be willing to “gouge out our eye” or “cut off our hand” to curb sin? Would anyone be willing to share how they have sacrificed to gain holiness (not necessarily related to lust)?

After cutting yourself off from the “salt water”, you will naturally need to find fulfillment... you are still desiring to quench your thirst. And the first place you need to go is to God Himself. Read the following scriptures.

Psalms 63:1 “O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”

Psalms 143:1 “I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.”

Psalms 62:1 “My soul waits for God alone. For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.”

Isaiah 55:1-3 “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

When was the last time you thirsted for God like this? What needs to change in your life to be fully satisfied in Him?