

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

"Spiritual Surgery" Matthew 5:29-30

Questions:

- † Ever wonder what Jesus' desire is regarding our attitude to sin?
 - It's that we would see the **CHARACTER** of sin in such a way that we abhor and forsake sin.

- † How are we then to deal with this ever present problem of sin?
 - If the most precious thing you have is a **LURE** to sin, get rid of it.

- † Are you concerned over the state of your heart?
 - The surest evidence that God is at work in a person's life is when they respond to God "I am a **SINNER**" and mean it! Anything less is a remorse for having made blunders.

- † How are we to face the problems we face daily?
 - In this morning's text, our Lord indicates a number of points which we must observe and grasp to deal positively with our problem of **SIN**.

#1. Realize that sin pollutes

MY NATURE IS SINFUL

- Romans 5:12
- 1 John 1:8 & 10
- Sin leads to action but exists **APART** from the actions.
- Sin is not only the **ACT** of adultery, it's the thought, the desire first.

#2. Why invite a burglar into your living room?

JESUS SAYS TWICE...

"It is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell."

- Whatever comes between you and the Lord is an **ETERNAL** and must be put aside. These are the trap/snare, that lead us into deception.
- My **OUTTER** man is subservient to my **INNER** man. So I must examine my desires to figure out my actions.
- Today, are you more concerned about this life or **ETERNAL** destiny? Better to be a cripple in this life, than to love everything in the next.
- Matthew 16:26
- Matthew 10:28

#3. We must train (not try) to hate sin.

TRAIN, NOT TRY

“You that love the Lord, hate evil.” Psalm 97:10

- Hating sin means doing all to **DESTROY** sin at all cost within myself.
- “The entrance into the Kingdom is through the panging pains of repentance crashing in a man’s respectable goodness; then the Holy Ghost, Who produces these agonies, begins the formation of the Son of God in the life.” ~Oswald Chambers

#4. It’s a positive goal!

AIM AT A HEART THAT IS CLEAN AND PURE

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

- Realize the ideal is a **CLEAN** and **PURE** heart free from evil lusts.

#5. The importance of “spiritual surgery”

“If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you.”

- Romans 8:13
- Romans 13:14
- **MORTIFY** through the Spirit the deeds of the body.

Doing Deliberate Discipleship What does this all mean?

1. Play with matches and you’ll get burnt

- Abstain from even the **APPEARANCE** of evil.
- Are you concerned about self, status, condition, achievement and how you are perceived? True holiness is always concerned about pleasing God, glorifying Him, ministering to the glory of Jesus Christ.

2. Watch and pray!

- Be deliberate in **RESTRAINING** the “flesh.”
- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- These are things that you and I have to do ourselves, train. They will not be done for us! It is a daily surrender and dependence upon the power of God.

3. What’s your incentive? Then, what’s your ministry?

- Be ever mindful of the price **PAID** to deliver us from sin.
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
- Such love “demands my soul, my life, my all.” ~Isaac Watts

If we try to deny our flesh alone, in our own strength and power, we will produce an utterly false brand of sanctification.

But if we realize the power and nature of sin, the awful grip it has on us and its polluting effect, THEN we will realize that we are poor in spirit, utterly feeble, and we’ll constantly plead for the power which the Holy Spirit alone can provide.

With this power, we will “pluck out the eye, cut off the hand,” in other words, deal with our problem of sin.