

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>27</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup> But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> 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 (English Standard Version)

## Reflection

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

- Jeremiah 31:31-34 (English Standard Version)

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

- Ezekiel 36:22-27 (English Standard Version)

# Sermon Outline

**A New Heart**  
Matthew 5:27-30

*And His Disciples Came to Him*  
Brad Anderson

**God’s law exposes the deep adultery of our heart, driving us to the only one who can truly satisfy our longing...** (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:22-27)

*How does God satisfy our longing?*

**By providing a brand new heart...** (Matthew 5:27-28)

- One that looks deeply into the law of God.
  - One that looks deeply into the human need.
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**By providing a brand new eye...** (Matthew 5:27-28; 6:22-23)

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**By providing new power to take radical steps of love...** (Matthew 5:29-30)

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## Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Can you think of a movie or piece of literature that illustrates how people try to live a separate life, one inside and one outside? How did it work? What was the outcome?
- Read Romans 7:7-12. What does Paul say happened in him once the commandment about covetousness was revealed? In a similar way, each of the commandments Jesus highlights in Matthew 5 creates an exposure. What effect does that exposure have?
- The notion of lust is evident across many areas, not just the areas of sexual fidelity. What lusts can you identify in our culture? Where do you see the continual, driving hunger for more?
- It would seem that Jesus is not to be taken literally when he says, “If your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away...and if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away.” Adultery is still possible with one hand and one eye. What was Jesus’ point? How would you apply these words in your life today?
- How does this deepened standard related to adultery impact you? Does it move you to hunger and thirst for righteousness? Does it move you to mourn? Does it move you to consider your own spiritual poverty? Does it move you toward greater humility?
- How does Jesus meet you in your need related to this command?