

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a dirt road with tire tracks leads from the bottom center towards the middle ground. The terrain is sandy and sparsely covered with small, dry bushes. In the background, a range of rugged, brown mountains stretches across the horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The overall mood is desolate and expansive.

The Gospel of Matthew

WHY DID THE KING COME BUT NOT THE KINGDOM?

Outline to the book of Matthew:

I. The King Has Come 1:1-13:53

1. *The Incarnation and the preparation of the King 1:1 – 4:11*
2. *The Declaration of the Principles of the King 4:12 – 7:29*
3. *The Manifestation of the King 8:1 – 11:1*
4. *The Opposition to the King 11:2 – 13:53*

II. The Kingdom Has Not 13:54-28:20

5. *The Reaction of the King, 13:54 – 19:2*
6. *The Formal Presentation and Rejection of the King, 19:3 – 25:46*
7. *The Crucifixion and the Resurrection of the King, 26:1 – 28:20*

***Subpoints follow Stanley Toussaint's seven main divisions outlined in his commentary.

I. THE KING HAS COME 1:1 – 13:53

The Declaration of the Principles of the King 4:12 – 7:29

(Matthew 5:27-32)

*“The true intent of the law
against adultery and divorce”*

Jesus' discourse on the Mosaic Law:

Three Laws are explained by Jesus –

1. Murder 5:21-26

2. Adultery 5:27-30

- Divorce is an addendum to the law on Adultery 5:31-32

3. Oaths 5:33-37

Two elaborations:

1. Personal retribution 5:38-42 (cf. Ex. 21:24)

2. Love your neighbor 5:43-48 (summary of the law)

Outline:

1. The declaration of the law v. 27
2. The intention of the law v. 28
3. The observation of the law vv. 29-30
4. The addendum to the law on adultery vv. 31-32

1- The declaration of the law v. 27

A. Observations:

- What the Israelites understood
 1. “you have heard that it was said”
 2. “to those of old” (Their forefathers)
 3. “you shall not commit adultery”
 - Cf. Ex. 20:14
 4. The judgment for adultery:
 - Lev. 20:10; Deut. 22:22-29

1- The declaration of the law v. 21

B. Summary/Application:

- The Israelites understood the letter of the law.
- They understood the consequence of breaking the letter.
- Rabbinic teachings emphasized no judgment unless the letter is broken.
- The righteousness of the law was therefore neglected.
- Jesus will explain the righteousness of the law.

Outline:

1. The declaration of the law v. 27
2. The intention of the law v. 28
3. The observation of the law vv. 29-30
4. The addendum to the law on adultery vv. 31-32

2- The intention of the law v. 28

A. Observations:

- Jesus corrects their misunderstanding v. 28a
 - “But I say to you”
- The righteousness of the true intention of the law v. 28b
 - “Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her”
 - ὅτι πᾶς ὁ βλέπων γυναῖκα πρὸς τὸ ἐπιθυμῆσαι αὐτήν
 - πρὸς = towards
 - ἐπιθυμῆσαι = to lust (infinitive of purpose)
 - lit. “whoever looks at a woman for the purpose of lusting for her.”

2- The intention of the law v. 28

A. Observations:

- Jesus corrects their misunderstanding v. 28a
 - “But I say to you”
- The righteousness of the true intention of the law v. 28b
 - “Whoever looks at a woman for the purpose to lust for her”
 - “has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” cf. 2 Sam. 11:2-4
 - When was the righteous requirement of the law broken by David?

2- The intention of the law v. 28

A. Summary/Application:

- Jesus corrects their misunderstanding of the righteousness of the law.
- Intentional lusting breaks the righteousness of the law.
- The false understanding could have been: “you can look but don’t touch!”
- Breaking the righteousness of the law makes one liable for judgment. i.e. **THEY ARE NOT RIGHTEOUS!**

Outline:

1. The declaration of the law v. 27
2. The intention of the law v. 28
3. The observation of the law vv. 29-30
4. The addendum to the law on adultery vv. 31-32

3- The observation of the law vv. 29-30

A. Observations:

- The application for avoiding this sin vv. 29-30
 - The sin of perception –
 - “If your right eye causes you to sin,”
 - “sin” (σκανδαλίζει) = to stumble or offend
 - “pluck it out and cast it from you;”
 - “for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna.”

3- The observation of the law vv. 29-30

A. Observations:

- The application for avoiding this sin vv. 29-30
 - The sin of action –
 - “If your right hand causes you to sin,”
 - “cut it off and cast it from you;”
 - “for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna.”

3- The observation of the law vv. 29-30

A. Summary/Application:

- If the law observer stumbles with internal lusting, they are to take serious action.
- The action required is not woodenly literal as removing an eye or hand will not solve the problem.
- The application is to remove all provision that lead to temptation?
- How is this done in such a sexualized world?
- Consider the areas of mental, emotional, and spiritual adultery.

Outline:

1. The declaration of the law v. 27
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4- The addendum to the law on adultery vv. 31-32

A. Observations:

- The misinterpretation of divorce law v. 31
 - “Furthermore it has been said,”
 - ““whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.”” (cf. Deut. 24:1)

4- The addendum to the law on adultery vv. 31-32

A. Observations:

- The correction to misunderstood divorce law v. 32
 - “But I say to you”
 - “that whoever divorces his wife for any cause”
 - Rabbinic theology introduced what is called the “any cause” divorce.
 - “Except sexual immorality”
 - Deut. 24:1 originally in Hebrew when translated, “if a man finds a cause of sexual immorality.
 - Apparently, there are other grounds.

4- The addendum to the law on adultery vv. 31-32

A. Observations:

- The grounds of divorce according to Mosaic law and Jewish application:

1) Sexual immorality

Exodus 21:10-11:

2) Food withheld

3) Clothing withheld

4) Conjugal rights withheld

“The Jews reasoned that if this were true for a 2nd wife, then it is true for the single wife. So, these three grounds were added to divorce certificates and formed the basis for Jewish marriage vows”

- Jeremy Thomas, Basics of the Faith

4- The addendum to the law on adultery vv. 31-32

A. Observations:

- The Jewish marriage vows in the marriage covenant:
(cf. 1 Cor. 7 & Eph. 5)
 - 1) Faithfulness
 - 2) Providing food
 - 3) Providing clothing (shelter and protection)
 - 4) Conjugal rights
- Failing to provide these in a continual and unrepentant manner were grounds for divorce.

4- The addendum to the law on adultery vv. 31-32

A. Observations:

- The correction to misunderstood divorce law v. 32
 - “But I say to you”
 - “that whoever divorces his wife for any cause”
 - “Except sexual immorality”
 - “causes her to commit adultery”
 - “and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”

Summary/Application:

- Adultery is more than physical.
- We must identify and remove the provisions for adultery.
- We must guard against emotional, mental, spiritual, and of course physical adultery.
- We must cultivate loving affection for our spouse.
- Divorce shouldn't be an option but because of sin, it happens. How do we develop a biblical approach to this issue?
- Husbands... you have a responsibility in your marriage to provide, protect and be faithful to your wife and mother of your children.
- We must celebrate Mothers day!



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