

Purity, Passion, & Pardon

Preached by: Matthew S. Black

Text: Matthew 5:27-30

Series: King of Kings

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Living Hope Bible Church of Roselle, IL

Introduction: I invite you to turn in your Bibles to **Matthew 5: 27-30**. We are in a series through the book of Matthew entitled: “King of kings.” Today’s we are looking at: a message entitled: “Purity, Passion, & Pardon”. We are looking specifically at the devastating effects of pornography in our society, how God redeems each of His children from slavery not only to sexual impurity, but from any kind of enslaving passion.

Lust and Loneliness

We all struggle to one degree or another with lust or loneliness. We all are tempted to think that a human being can solve our problems.

In fact, our culture uses sexual exploitation to sell everything. There is the lie that if you...

- buy this product, or
- you wear a certain brand of cologne or
- drive a particular luxury car, or
- drink a certain beverage, you will suddenly attract a bevy of beautiful supermodels.

It’s ridiculous! Popular songs romanticize infidelity. The advent of cable television and internet has extended a river of filth into the homes of millions.

Today people want pleasure without commitment. The rate of cohabitation is sad. In 1970 **a million** unmarried adults sharing living quarters with a person of the opposite sex. By 1980 the figure was more than **2 million**. Today we well over **3 million** adults that are shacking up. There is a desire to have the pleasure of marriage without the commitment of marriage.

Sadly, no human being can fill the vacuum of the human heart. One of the puritans said there is a God-shaped void in all of us that only God can fill. It is so true.

Man’s Ancient Fix: The Coliseum of Rome

Man has always wanted a fix to fill his empty heart. The Coliseum of Rome was built in A.D. 75–80 - about a decade after Paul’s death. Hundreds of Christians suffered death there to entertain the populace. What a testimony the shouting mob remains to man’s desperate need for righteousness.¹ Man has always wanted a fix. Man wants an escape. We don’t have to go to a Roman Coliseum to raw sex or to see people torn apart or blown to pieces. We have our own Roman Coliseum in our living rooms. Actually, you don’t have to even own a television. Our hearts can create unlawful escapes.

¹ Richards, L. O. (1991). *The Bible reader’s companion* (electronic ed.) (735). Wheaton: Victor Books.

You don't need to live in first century AD to know that the human heart is depraved. So many are crying out today, "Who can rescue us from this culture?" My heart cry this morning is "Who can rescue me from me?" I am my own worst enemy.

Jesus demonstrates this in our passage today.

Reading of Scripture

Matthew 5:27–30, "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."

The Gospel affects our behavior. There six sections in which Jesus deals with the true application of the Gospel, and how it supersedes the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees. The Gospel changes:

- Our Relationships
 - Our Desires
 - Our Marriages
 - Our Words
 - Our Rights
 - Our Attitude toward our Enemies
-
- The Gospel brings **purity** of heart (vs. 27-28)
 - The Gospel gives **power** over enslaving desires
 - The Gospel's **pardon** lifts us from the flames of hell.

I. The Gospel brings **purity** of heart (vs. 27-28)

Matthew 5:27–28, "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."

The Original Intent of God's Law

In these words not only does Christ lay out the original intent of God's law and defines where the real moral battle is raging, but he also drops a bomb on any hope that legalism can produce righteous living.²

In **verse 27** Jesus reiterates the traditional standard of sexual purity: "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.'"

In the original, this is a letter-for-letter rendering of the Greek version (Septuagint) of the seventh commandment. It is a perfectly good, sublime statement of God's Law. The only criticism that one might venture is that it is only external, for it only mentions the outward act of adultery. It must be admitted, however, that the tenth commandment

² Tripp, Paul David (2013-04-30). Sex and Money: Pleasures That Leave You Empty and Grace That Satisfies (Kindle Locations 538-539). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

does allude to the internal aspect: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife” (**Exodus 20:17**). However, for all practical purposes, Moses and the scribes did not emphasize the inward aspect of adultery as much as they did the outward manifestation.³

The Standard is Perfection

The standard is not simply “do not murder. Do not commit adultery”. The standard is perfection. “Be perfect as my Father in heaven is perfect”. Our righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees. Jesus enumerates in vs. 21-48 six areas or examples where our righteousness must be much deeper than legalistic righteousness. It must go to the heart. We’ve seen two so far: not only is murder forbidden but sinful anger and insults. Not only is adultery forbidden but sinful looking and lusting.

The Problem is the Heart

Matthew 5:28, “everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Few male and female believers have not crossed the line from attraction to lust at some time. ***We are all adulterers by this standard.***

When it comes to lust we are tempted to buy into the legalism that says if we can organize people’s lives, give them the right set of rules, and attach them to efficient systems of accountability, we can deliver people from their lust problems or their anger problems.

- **Jeremiah 17:9**, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Who can know it?”
- **Proverbs 23:7**, “For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”
- **Matthew 15:17-20**, “...what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person.”

Heart Traps

Heart traps are everywhere in our culture. Mass media uses sex to sell its products and to glamorize its programs. Sex crimes are at all-time highs, while infidelity, divorce, and perversion are justified. Marriage, sexual fidelity, and moral purity are scorned, ridiculed, and laughed at. We are preoccupied with sex to a degree perhaps never before seen in a civilized culture.

The main problem is not our culture. Yes our culture is depraved. But our culture is depraved because we have a mass of people with depraved hearts that feast on this stuff. That temptation touches everyone of us here today. What Christ pushes us toward is the realm of the Kingdom. He pushes us to a surrender to His Lordship which produces a greater righteousness than legalistic standards.

³ Hughes.

The Kingdom is the Realm of the Spirit, New Covenant

The Kingdom of God is good news. Jesus message is: Repent and believe the Gospel. Matthew 5-7 is impetus to believe that Gospel. You cannot hope to supersede the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees without the hope of the Kingdom.

When Jesus introduces the Kingdom, He's pointing toward the New Covenant, an unprecedented time of the Spirit's work, where, as **Joel** says, *the Spirit would be poured out* not just on Jews, but *on all flesh*, on all nations. Or as Ezekiel mentions, this would be a time when God's true people would have a new heart – the old stony heart would be removed, and a new heart would be given with the indwelling Spirit – and that indwelling Spirit would accomplish the greater righteousness that Jesus presents in the Sermon on the Mount.

RT Kendall, protégé and student of Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones calls the Sermon on the Mount "Jesus' Doctrine of the Spirit". This is how the Kingdom functions.

Example of Joseph

If everyone is guilty if he merely "looks at a woman with lustful intent" and already "has already committed adultery with her in his heart", then is there any hope? Oh, yes there is! There is freedom from the enslaving power of sin.

Consider Joseph. Here is a single man – very handsome, fit, at the peak of his life, and he finds himself as a single man enticed daily by his master Potiphar's wife. Here is this gorgeous, rich woman that wants to "lie" with him.

What is Joseph's response? **Genesis 39:5-12**, "Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.⁷ And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me."⁸ But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge."⁹ He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"¹⁰ And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

¹¹ But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house,¹² she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house."

Lust not an External Problem, but Internal

The problem is **not** with the **situation** primarily. Jesus says in **Matthew 15:17-20**, "...what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person." Notice that Jesus doesn't say, "Hey people, it's very simple. The problem is, you live in this broken and evil world. It's populated with sinful people who will seduce you into doing what's wrong. Jesus does NOT give us a pass. It's not everyone else's fault that we have an anger problem or a lust problem. We ARE the problem!

Yet we tend to blame our sins on our environment. I've heard adulterous husbands say to me, "Matt, if you lived with my wife, you would understand why I did what I did." I've heard people blame TV, YouTube, and Facebook.

I've heard pastors who've committed sexual sin point to the lonely burdens of stressful ministry. People instinctively think the problem is outside themselves.

Listen to the words of Jesus and let them sink in. “What comes out of a person is what defiles him.”

Transition: We have to ask: Is there hope? Absolutely!

II. The Gospel gives **power** over enslaving desires (vs. 29-30)

Matthew 5:28-30, “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.”

It is probably that Jesus likely gave parts of the Sermon on the Mount hundreds of times. We see parts of his message scattered all over the Gospels. This theme recurs later in **Matthew 18:8** where Jesus says “if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.”

- Strange way the Jews looked at the body and hell

Mortification, not Maiming or Mutilation

Jesus’ point here is not that you should maim or mutilate yourself. On the surface, it looks like we have an easy solution to eliminating sin. Just *rip your eye out*. Ah, but even if we were to do that, the culprit that leads us to sin, the wants and desires of our hearts, would still be there!

Origen of Alexandria – John Stott mentions that “a few Christians whose zeal greatly exceeded their wisdom, have taken Jesus literally and mutilated themselves. The best know is likely Origen of Alexandria who because of an over literal interpretation of Matthew 19:12, literally “made himself a eunuch for the Kingdom of God”.

Sin is Slavery

Raging power of sinful desires. Sin is slavery. Jesus said in **John 8:34**, “everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.” **Romans 6:13-14** says it this way, “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”

Paul said it this way in **Ephesians 4:23-24**, “put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Radical Amputation: Be Killing Sin

The solution is not mutilation of the body, but *mortification* of sin. We call it “radical amputation”. John Owen said, “Be killing sin or sin will be killing you”.

1.) **What You See** – “If your eye offends you, rip it out” that is if **what you see** causes you to sin, pluck your eye out – that is, cut off access to your eyes so your heart is not tempted to sin. **Blind yourself to the things that cause you to sin.** There are times when all I can do is look at my shoes. Behave as if you’ve plucked your eyes out – mortify your sin. You may need to change the route that you go home because of a billboard. You may need to cut off internet access for a while.

Television fills our living rooms with sex-filled advertisements for toothpaste (“give your mouth sex appeal”), shaving cream (“take it off; take it all off”). Whether it’s beer, basketball, or Windex, everything is sold with sex. We have to **blind ourselves** to those things that tempt us. Don’t give your eyes access to tempt your heart.

2.) **What You Do** – “If your hand offends you, cut it off”, that is **what you do**. You may need to not pick up certain literature.

3.) **Where you Go** – “If your foot offends you, cut it off,” (Mt. 18:8) that is **where you go**. If there are places your feet carry you that cause you to sin, DON’T GO!

Movie Theater Illustration – I can remember getting to the door of a movie theater, sneaking into a movie, and I had to “*act as if I was lame*”. I had to cut off my foot! I told my friends, “I can’t do this, I’m a Christian”. That’s mortification.

Purity is Possible

Job 31:1 (NKJV), “I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?”

1 Corinthians 6:18–20 (ESV), “Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

Beware of the Pattern of Sin: David

Where are we to turn for help? The most instructive example in all of God's Word is the experience of King David as it is told in 2 Samuel 11.

As the account begins, David is at the summit of his brilliant career - as high as any man in Biblical history. From childhood he had been a passionate lover of God and possessed of an immense integrity of soul, as attested by Samuel's words when he anointed him as king: “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). God liked what He saw. God liked David's heart!

Kent Hughes describes 5 steps in sin’s pattern found in King David’s life: Desensitization, Relaxation, Fixation, Rationalization, and Degeneration.⁴

David had an archetypal sanguine personality brimming with joy, enthusiasm, and confidence and overflowing with irresistible charisma. He was the poet - the sweet Psalmist of Israel - so in touch with God and himself that his Psalms pluck the

⁴ Taken directly from R. Kent Hughes. *Disciplines of a Godly Man* (p. 27ff). Kindle Edition.

heartstrings of man even today. Under his leadership all Israel had been united. David hardly seemed a candidate for moral disaster. But the king was vulnerable, for there were definite flaws in his conduct which left him open to tragedy.

1. Desensitization

Second Samuel 5, which records David's initial assumption of power in Jerusalem, mentions almost as an aside that "after he left Hebron, David took more concubines and wives in Jerusalem" (v. 13). We must note, and note well, that David's taking additional wives was sin! Deuteronomy 17, which set down the standards for Hebrew kings, commanded that they refrain from three things: 1) acquiring many horses, 2) taking many wives, and 3) accumulating much silver and gold (cf. vv. 14-17). David did fine on one and three, but he completely failed on number two by willfully collecting a considerable harem. We must understand that a progressive desensitization to sin and a consequent inner descent from holiness had taken root in David's life. David's collection of wives, though it was "legal" and not considered adultery in the culture of the day, was nevertheless sin. King David's sensual indulgence desensitized him to God's holy call in his life, as well as to the danger and consequences of falling. In short, David's embrace of socially permitted sensuality desensitized him to God's call and made him easy prey for the fatal sin of his life.

Men, it is the "legal" sensualities, the culturally acceptable indulgences, which will take us down. The long hours of indiscriminate TV watching, which is not only culturally cachet but is expected of the American male, is a massive culprit of desensitization. The expected male talk - double entendre, coarse humor, laughter at things which ought to make us blush - is another deadly agent. Acceptable sensualities have insidiously softened Christian men, as statistics well attest. A man who succumbs to desensitization of the "legal" sensualities is primed for a fall.

2. Relaxation

The second flaw in David's conduct which opened him to disaster was his relaxation from the rigors and discipline which had been part of his active life. David was at midlife, about fifty years old, and his military campaigns had been so successful, it was not necessary for him to personally go off to war. He rightly gave the "mopping up" job to his capable general, Joab - and then relaxed. The problem was, his relaxation extended to his moral life. It is hard to maintain inner discipline when you are relaxing in this way. David was imminently vulnerable.

David did not suspect anything unusual was going to happen on that fatal spring day. He did not get up and say, "My, what a beautiful day. I think I will commit adultery today!" May this lesson not be wasted on us, men. Just when we think we are the safest, when we feel no need to keep our guard up, to work on our inner integrity, to discipline ourselves for godliness - temptation will come!

3. Fixation

2 Samuel 11:1-3, "In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. 2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the

king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. 3 And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

It had been a warm day, and evening was falling. The king strode out on the rooftop for some cool air and a look at his city at dusk. As he gazed, his eye caught the form of an unusually beautiful woman who was bathing without modesty. As to how beautiful she was, the Hebrew is explicit: the woman was "very beautiful of appearance" (v. 2). She was young, in the flower of life, and the evening shadows made her even more enticing. The king looked at her ... And he continued to look. After the first glance David should have turned the other way and retired to his chamber, but he did not. His look became a sinful stare and then a burning libidinous sweaty leer. In that moment David, who had been a man after God's own heart, became a dirty, leering old man. A lustful fixation came over him that would not be denied.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer made the observation that when lust takes control:

"At this moment God ... loses all reality.... Satan does not fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God."

The longer King David leered, the less real God became to him. Not only was his awareness of God diminished, but David lost awareness of who he himself was - his holy call, his frailty, and the certain consequences of sin. This is what lust does! It has done it millions of times. God disappears to lust-glazed eyes. The truth demands some serious questions: Has God faded from view? Did you once see Him in bright hues, but now His memory is blurred like an old photograph? Do you have an illicit fixation which has become all you can see?

4. Rationalization

From deadly fixation, King David descended to the next level down, which is rationalization. When his intent became apparent to his servants, one tried to dissuade him, saying, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" But David would not be rebuffed. Some massive rationalization took place in David's mind, perhaps very much as J. Allan Peterson has suggested in *The Myth of the Greener Grass*:

Uriah is a great soldier but he's probably not much of a husband or a lover - years older than she is - and he'll be away for a long time. This girl needs a little comfort in her loneliness. This is one way I can help her. No one will get hurt. I do not mean anything wrong by it. This is not lust - I have known that many times. This is love. This is not the same as finding a prostitute on the street. God knows that. And to the servant, "Bring her to me."

The mind controlled by lust has an infinite capacity for rationalization and peddle in deception.

- "How can something that has brought such enjoyment be wrong?"
- "God's will for me is to be happy; certainly He would not deny me anything which is essential to my happiness - and this is it!"
- "The question here is one of love - I'm acting in love, the highest love."
- "My marriage was never God's will in the first place."

5. *Degeneration*

Degeneration (Adultery, Lies, Murder) David's progressive desensitization, relaxation, fixation, and rationalization set him up for one of the greatest falls in history - and his degeneration. "Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, 'I am pregnant'" (vv. 4, 5). David was unaware he had stepped off the precipice and was falling, and that reality would soon arrive - the bottom was coming up fast.

We are all familiar with David's despicable behavior as he became a calculating liar and murderer in arranging Uriah's death to cover his sin with Bathsheba. Suffice it to say that at this time in the king's life, Uriah was a better man drunk than David was sober (v. 13)!

Sin is almost never monolithic. It leads to many others sins. You can almost never have lust without lying. And that's the pattern David spiraled into.

- David looked and coveted another man's wife (10th)
- That led David to **commit adultery** (7th)
- Then, in order to **steal** his neighbor's wife (8th), he committed **murder** (6th).
- He broke the 9th Commandment by **bearing false witness** against his brother.
- This all brought **dishonor to his parents** and thus broke the 5th Commandment.
- He let lust be **his god** and thus broke the first Four Commandments.

We would not be incorrect to say that David broke all Ten Commandments!

Then David's family fell apart. His baby died. His sons did evil. Amnon raped Tamar. Absalom killed Amnon and stole the kingdom from David. You could say David's reign lost the smile of God. His throne never regained its former stability.

What is the Answer?

What is the answer? God calls us to sexual purity! **1 Thessalonians 4:3-8**, "For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you."

Living in enslaving lust is a disregard of the Spirit's ministry. Through the Spirit there is power to overcome enslaving lusts! You have the power to say NO to sexual immorality. How?

Realize Intimacy is an Act of Worship

Intimacy is an act of worship. It is reserved for marriage because it is sacred. Marriage and marital intimacy is the one dimensional picture of the real thing. Ephesians 5 says marriage is a picture, a shadow, of the real relationship we have with Christ.

Marriage is a picture of a much higher union. You don't have to be married to experience that union with Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:15–20, “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

Marital intimacy is just as holy as prayer and Bible reading. Hebrews 13:4, “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed (sexual intimacy) undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge”. It is for this reason, it is to be treated with respect and treasured. A woman is not an object but a picture of Christ's church. She is to be protected and honored.

Hope for the Sinner

Can a person who is enslaved to lust break free? The loveliness and beauty of Christ is greater than our sin! Yes, we need to “put off the old life” of lust and immorality, but we also need to “put on the new life” which is Christ. We need to develop a worship time daily and even moment by moment.

It's not sex that is the most satisfying thing in the world. It is our union with Christ. Christ died not so that we could have earthly pleasure, but so that we could be united to God through Him.

III. The Gospel's **pardon lifts us from the flames of hell (vs. 27-30)**

Matthew 5:30b, “For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.”

The Penalty for Impurity is Hell

Make no mistake, that those who continue in lust or any other sin unrepentantly will end up in hell. There is everlasting destruction reserved for the unrepentant.

The Rich Man in Hell

Consider the rich man of Luke 16. The rich man fared sumptuously. But he did not take God seriously. We read in Luke **16:19-24** –

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. 24 And

he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'"

Proverbs 5:3-8, "For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, 4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; 6 she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it. 7 And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. 8 Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house".

Consequences in this Life

There are awful consequences to sin even in this life. Proverbs says that lust will reduce you to a crust of bread. You can't go near the fire of lust without getting burned.

Proverbs 6:26-29 (NKJV), "For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. 27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? 29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent."

The Woman Caught in Adultery

John 8:3-11, "The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to [Jesus], 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?' 6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.' 8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 11 She said, 'No one, Lord.'" And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

There is Pardon!

- **Psalm 130:3**, "If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?"
- **Ecclesiastes 7:20**, "Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."

Conclusion: Gospel Pardon

Who here is not guilty before God in the deepest crevices of their heart? We are all guilty. But there is Gospel pardon for lust! God sent His Son to change us. 2 Cor. 5:17 – we are new creations. God has given us a new heart. If you are overcome by lust and have no real power over it, you need a new heart! If you have that heart of conviction and comfort in the Spirit – you will not be sinless, but you will be sinning less. There is hope in Christ. Christ was crucified to deliver you from the power of sin! Hallelujah!