

Matthew 5:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

Analysis

Jesus quotes the Seventh Commandment against adultery, which the people knew and affirmed. But He will expand it to address the heart, not just the act. This pattern continues throughout the sermon: Jesus reveals the Law's true intent and exposes superficial obedience.

Historical Context

Adultery was clearly prohibited in the Mosaic Law and carried the death penalty. However, enforcement was inconsistent, and men often received more lenient treatment than women. Jesus will challenge not just the double standard but the lustful heart behind adultery.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's Law address not just actions but the heart attitudes behind them?

2. Why is it easier to avoid physical adultery than to maintain purity of thought and desire?

Interlinear Text

Ἐκούσατε	ὅτι	ἐρρέθη	τοῖς	ἀρχαίοις,	Οὐ	μοιχεύσεις
Ye have heard	that	it was said	G3588	by them of old time	not	Thou shalt
G191	G3754	G4483		G744	G3756	G3431

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 5:18 (Parallel theme): Neither shalt thou commit adultery.

Exodus 20:14 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Proverbs 6:32 (Parallel theme): But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

Leviticus 20:10 (Parallel theme): And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Matthew 5:21 (Parallel theme): Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: