

# 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 ἐρέθη τοῖς ἀρχαίοις, οὐ μοιχεύσεις  
Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time not Thou shalt  
G191 G3754 G4483 G3588 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: