

May 1, 2016; Matthew 5:27-37

“The Homesick Heart”

Different sermons that could be preached:

1. “Don’t lust,” “don’t commit adultery,” “don’t lie,” etc.—lean on the wills.
2. Reminder: our world is a dangerously “pornified” place—lean on our fears.
Lust does not need the internet; 1st century!
3. Do these 5 easy steps...—lean on our love for self-help.

The Journey Of The Heart (Luke 15:11-32 in the background)

1. Our hearts are made for loving God.

- “Heart” (verse 28): what lies beneath?

“Love God with all your heart, soul and strength and love your neighbour as yourself” (Matthew 22:37ff).

We are made for “covenant,” not a consumer approach to sex, marriage and telling the truth

“Home” = with God, at peace, good, right, blessing

2. Our hearts go wandering.

Loves and desires are not wrong but “disordered loves” make good things into ultimate things

“Addiction” / Sin: trying to find your god in something earthly; a love has become a god.

“The Augustinian point is that you are defined by what you love. It’s your loves that govern your action and pursuits. Indeed, you are more defined by what you love than what you think or know or believe” (James Smith, interview).

- “Hell,” (verses 29,30); “the evil one” (verse 37); the pig pen (Luke 15) = this is really, really serious
- The ministry of Jesus is not a ministry of condemnation. However, his ministry is surgery.
- The authority of Jesus: “But I tell you...” (verses 28, 32, 34)

3. Our hearts long to return to God.

“Our hearts are restless [without peace] until the rest in you.”
(Augustine)

“Being a follower of Jesus is more than knowing what Jesus wants you to believe but loving what Jesus loves” (James Smith).

Jesus is a wholistic teacher, healer, saviour.

A way forward...?

Real change....honesty about our hearts.

This is both an individual (“I”) as well as a communal (“we”) challenge.