

I. Review SOTM

- A. The SOTM is the unveiling of the heart of the King and an invitation to walk in the fullness of the life of the Kingdom that He made available to us through the New Covenant. The incarnation, death, and resurrection of our Savior is a clear and statement about the death that exists in our hearts is from His vantage point, and how dedicated He is to eradicate it from our lives. (Rom 8:1-6; Heb. 9:1-14)
1. In His kindness, the great Shepard of our hearts (Pastor) refuses to ignore the weeds of death in the garden of our hearts. In His relentless pursuit of the fullness of love, not only did He die and rise again on our behalf to free us from death within, but continues to expose areas of death in our heart in order to bring us to fullness. (Heb. 12:25-29; Rev. 1:14)
 2. Six Weeds – Jesus puts forward six particular aspects of the law in which the outward action of obedience was being walked out by the scribes and Pharisees, but the death within the heart still remained. Jesus places the priority on righteousness in the inward parts that produces outward righteousness. (Mat. 5:17-20)
 - a. Spirit of murder - Thoughts and words that come forth in our disdain for certain individuals and our desire be free of them is the same spirit of murder as the actual action of murder. (Jam. 4:1-3)
- B. Jesus sets out to destroy a legalistic view of the law, which in my opinion is a low view of the law. Individuals who hold a low view of the law are blind to the magnitude of the spirit behind the letter and foolishly believe keeping the law is doable through discipline and abstinence. Those who hold a high view of Gods law cannot read it and feel clean before Him. If you hold a high view of the law are left with nothing except to plead for mercy and find righteousness through faith alone. (Mat. 15:1-20)

II. Exposing the spirit of Covetousness (Mat. 5:27-30)

- A. The legalist has reduces the commandment to “not commit adultery” to only applying to the act of adultery itself. In doing so, they nullified the spirit of the law and nullified the purpose of law itself. In only applying the letter of the law, they gave themselves license to welcome death to remain and grow in their hearts and relationships.

- B. The word lust and covet are used interchangeably in the bible. When used in the negative sense speak of “desiring to obtain things that are forbidden because they belong to another”. Jesus uses the example of lusting after an adulterous relationship to connect it clearly to the command “thou shall not covet”. (Ex. 20:17)
- C. Fueled - Just as Jesus showed how the spirit of murder exists in the fallen heart and fueled by murderous thoughts and words. He now tells us that the covetousness that exists in the fallen heart is fueled by thoughts birthed from sight (right eye) and sensual activity (right hand). (1 Jhn 2:15-17)
1. Just as eliminating murderous speech weakens the spirit of murder, so too guarding your eyes and activities weakens the spirit of covetousness. (Job 31:1-3; Ps. 101:2-4, 119:33-40)
- D. Sobering – Once again just as Jesus raised our awareness of the severity of murderous speech, here He tells us to take radical action to stop feeding the spirit of covetousness in our hearts.
1. Right Eye and Hand – In the Jewish culture of Jesus’s day the right eye and right hand were considered the most valuable important parts of the physical body. So in effect Jesus is saying “Even if the most important or valued thing in your life is fueling sin, eliminate it from your life.”
 2. Radical – To what lengths would you go to remove pain and death from your body or from a loved one? Many of us lack perspective when it comes to the sin and death that dwells in the heart and thoughts. We all believe its wrong to a point but we fail to hate it and resist it to the level that Jesus and the other writers of scripture encourage us to. (Rom. 7:5, 8:13; Gal 6:8; Eph. 5:3-5; Col 3:5-6; Jas. 1:14-15)
- E. Filling to Fullness – Jesus broke the power of sin that works in us through His substitutionary death, and His substitutionary resurrection gave us access to be filled with life where death once dwelt. Jesus is just as concerned with the filling of life as He is with the removal of death. A heart that has been cleaned by intentional removal of sin by the Spirit must now be filled with the same intentionality. This is done through the Holy Spirit revealing the knowledge and beauty of God to you and transforming your heart in the process. (Mat. 12:22-45; Col. 2:9-3:17)