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Matthew 5:27-28 *Adultery Part 2*

Jerry Arnold

“...things happening all around us, we want to spend time with You, alone with you. We want to be still and know that You are God. We are praying that as we open Your word, You will be the One who teaches us, who leads us, who inspires us, and we ask and pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

When I was in the sixth grade, I wanted to be a monkey. Not a primate; I wanted to be like Peter or Mike, Mickey or Davy. I wanted to be cool. I wanted to be one of the monkeys because they were loved, they were appreciated, they were accepted. I wanted hair like them, long and shaggy. My dad wouldn’t allow it. In fact, it was in the sixth grade that my dad allowed my brother and I to grow some hair. My dad always cut our hair and it was just real short. I am not sure, I don’t think I even knew what color hair I had until the sixth grade. And my dad let us have a “Princeton.” Now some of you may or may not know what a Princeton is? But a Princeton is when your hair is very short everywhere except right in the front they’d allow you to have a little curl. And so we had to comb it up. And you had to use a little brill cream or something, you know, to keep it up. And it was just this little greasy wave right on top or your forehead.

And so, as soon as we could leave the house, we’d take a sock or something, and wipe the grease off and put our hair down, ‘cause then, we could have bangs. We wanted to be a monkey, wanted to be cool, wanted to dress like them. They had those double button shirts and wild pants and things. But I never did get that, but I wanted to be a monkey. I felt like if I could be one; I would be loved and I would be accepted. Because you know, in the sixth grade, I was arriving. I was almost there. Christmas came that year, and my dad’s family was meeting together. So I would be there with my aunts and uncles and cousins. And they had done a drawing so everybody would get a gift, but you only had to buy one gift yourself. I don’t remember whose name I got, but my cousin, Stan, got my name. Stan was 10 years older than me, and he was pretty cool. So I was thinking, “I’ll get a good gift. I’ll get something neat.”

When I opened it, I wasn’t flattered. You know, I am in the sixth grade, I wanted to be cool. And he gave me a toy. A toy! It was a rocket about this big, and what you did is you turn it upside down, you filled it with water to a certain line, then you attached it to a pump, and you pumped air in there to give it pressure, then you pulled this lever, and it was supposed to shoot up in the air. “Oh, thanks Stan, nice try. You know, I am in the sixth grade, c’mon man! That’s a toy!” I wanted something that would make me cool so I could be loved and accepted. So, I didn’t appreciate the gift. In fact, I never used it until the following summer. It was a boring day. Nothing going on, so I was trying to think of something to do. And I found that rocket. So I read the directions, put the water in it, put it on the pump, pumped it up as hard as I could get it, I pulled the lever, and phew, man it really shot up. And water sprang out; it made it look like smoke. And I don’t know how it did it, but when it got to its height and started to come down, all of a sudden a little parachute popped up and it floated down.

You know, it wasn’t so bad. It was kind of cool. In fact, it was really cool when you aimed it at people. Well, it must have been one of those days in the neighborhood where everybody was bored because the sound of the “phew” got people’s attention. Before long, kids in the neighborhood had gathered around, and I was pretty popular with my rocket. And you know that gift which I was spurning, actually became the source of my acceptance and appreciation of others. I’d like to talk to you about that today. Please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 5 verses 27 and 28. We are continuing our series of Jesus’ teachings called “The Sermon on the Mount.” Last week we had Adultery part one, this week is part two, next week will be part three; a lot to talk about in these two verses. Matthew 5 verses 27 and 28 it says, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, *You shall not commit adultery!* But I say to you that whoever looks at the woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Last week we learned that the Biblical definition of adultery is “Voluntary sexual relations between a married man and someone other than his wife or between a married woman and someone other than her husband.” We learned that the word *adultery* comes from the word *adulterate* which means, “To corrupt, debase or make impure by the addition of a foreign and inferior element or baser ingredient.” So in the marriage relationship, when another person enters, it adulterates the marriage relationship. It is a foreign and inferior element and it creates impurity. We learned that adultery can be on a spiritual level, it is disloyalty to God. We learned that in the natural application it is disloyalty to a spouse. And it is a capital crime; it is to be punished by death according to Old Testament teachings.

Now, as I was studying the concept of adultery and in particular, Matthew 5, I saw something and I want to share what I saw with you today. And it’s, you see it when you look at it in its context. Look at chapter 5 verse 20. Jesus says, “For I say to you that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” Jesus is talking about righteousness, right doing, living in peace with God, doing or being like Him, in essence, holy living. He gives an example in verse 21: “You have heard that it was said to those of old, *you shall not murder.*” Life is a sacred gift from God, so He wretches up murder to an unholy expression. It is going against the will of God. He quotes from the Ten Commandments which are in the Old Testament which is a holy writing, and then Ten Commandments themselves are a holy writing. So Jesus is dealing with holiness and He says, “You shall not murder.”

We come to verse 27, He says: “You have heard that it was said to those of old, *you shall not commit adultery.*” Adultery is also found in the Old Testament which is sacred Holy Scripture, and it is also found in the Law of God, which is sacred and holy. Jesus has identified for us that just as life is sacred and a gift from God, marriage is sacred and is also a gift from God. Few of us understand how sacred, how holy marriage actually is. But it is in the eyes of God, a sacred institution. Let’s look at God’s plan for us in marriage, in Genesis 2 verses 21-24. It says, “And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam. And he slept. And He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. Then, the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called *woman* because she was taken out of man. Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother, and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

The gift of a spouse comes from God. The purpose of the gift of a spouse is to create one flesh. This is a holy union. What does it mean to be one flesh? Well, the Bible helps us to understand that. Let’s go to First Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 23. Paul is wrapping up his first letter to the Thessalonians, and he says in verse 23: “Now, may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely.” Now the word, *sanctify* means, *set apart for a holy purpose*. So it could be written this way: “Now may the God of peace Himself make you holy.” He goes on to say, “And may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Here, Paul talks about the spirit, the soul, and the body. He talks about this in the context of God making them holy. Now, Seventh-day Adventists talk a lot about spirit, soul, and body. In fact, some of our greatest arguments with other Christians are in these areas. And we have our select text that we run to and use to identify why believe what we believe.

We believe that the spirit is the breath of God that comes and unites itself with a body. And when there is life, there is a soul. And we argue these things and we know the text and we understand what it’s all about. But many times, unfortunately, because we are in an argumentative mode or mood, we don’t catch what the Bible has to teach us about the spirit, the soul and the body. So we are going to look at that just a little bit today. The word in the Greek for spirit is *pneuma*, and that’s where we get the English word, *pneumatic*. It is a tool power driven by air, a pneumatic tool. So *pneuma* does mean wind, breath, spark of life; all those things are associated with *pneuma*. It also can mean: mood, attitude, state of fillings, aspects of personality, temperament, disposition,

outlook, tendency, frame of mind. Let me give you an example. Look at Galatians 6 verse 1, Paul says: "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such one in a spirit of gentleness considering yourself lest you also be tempted."

So he is saying that let your attitude, let the mood be one of kindness and gentleness towards someone you are trying to restore to the Lord. It is talking about the essential principle that influences a person, their attitude. And in marriage God is wanting people to be spirit to spirit. Now, there is a reason why it is so difficult to be spirit to spirit. One is, there is an enemy of our souls who is doing everything he can to prevent it. Because the experience of marriage the way God has designed it to be, is to help us understand our relationship with Him. God Himself is in relationship, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are in relationship to one another. And Jesus even prays in John 17 that we could be one with Him and one with each other as He is with His Father. That's God's plan for us that we through marriage would experience such an intimacy, such closeness with another human being that God has provided for us that we would have a sense of the closeness that God wants us to have with Him.

So the devil doesn't want you to have that. Now to be one in spirit in marriage is to wed philosophies, directions, dreams, hopes; it's walking together, is talking together, it's sharing together, it's listening, it's caring one for another, it's weeping together, it is a togetherness. Now it doesn't mean you always agree. In fact, rarely will two people who are brought together by God agree on everything. If you do, you don't need that person. Part of the joy of marriage is fine-tuning positions. What to do in your home right now, the stress of finances and what's happening and what may happen. You may have one in one position and one in another. That's all right! It's all right! They can still be one in spirit because they'll go together to God and they'll seek God's guidance what should be done.

I saw a beautiful demonstration of one in spirit when I was pastoring in another field. There was a teacher. It was a male teacher, a very talented teacher. And his disposition, his spirit was one of kindness and he was easy going. And that was his strength. He had some weaknesses. The weakness was that in that spirit, in that disposition, he kind of let the classroom run wild. In fact, parents were complaining because it seemed that he was more concerned about the non-adventist children that were there rather than he was about the Adventist children who were there. And the parents would sacrifice much to put their children in the school where they wouldn't be influenced by kids like those non-adventist that were there. It resulted in such stress that the education superintendent had to get involved.

And I remember sitting in the living room with the teacher, his wife and the education superintendent. And as the conversation was going on, the education superintendent was making it pretty clear that unless some changes were made, he wasn't going to be able to continue teaching at our school. It doesn't mean he wouldn't be able to teach somewhere else, but at our school it wasn't going to work anymore. At that point, the wife of thirty five years, I heard her say: "I know he won't change." And when I heard that, I was thinking of what would be happening in a typical home. Imagine the stress ladies. You are sitting there with your husband who is being told if he would change some things in his behavior and what he is doing, then he can keep his job. But if not, he may lose his job. She said, "I know, he won't change."

And I left there thinking, "Well, she is going to rip into him now. She is going to claw his eyes out," "What are you doing, you are forcing us to move," and you know all the fears and doubts and stuff like this. She never did that, what she was saying is that basically, "I know what you want done, but I know my husband, I know his spirit. He is going to stay where he is at." She was not condemning him, she was saying, "I know, he won't change." Even though she may not have agreed with him, they were one in spirit. Now let me tell you something, I've said this

before and I believe it's true. There is no marriage that is one hundred percent good. And I said that at 10 o'clock, and somebody said very loudly, "Amen." I didn't there look to see where it came from. At best, you may be running eighty percent good because you are too separate individuals. You are going to process and see life differently. And if you want you can live in the twenty percent of what isn't working or you can live in the eighty percent, and accept one another for who you are because you are united in spirit and you understand each other at that level. And you appreciate each other.

Now that happens only by determination. And it's at that level the devil doesn't want you to have it. He doesn't want you to be one in spirit. Well, it said, "...one in spirit, one in soul" well, it didn't actually say it, I am implying, "...one in spirit, soul and body." What is soul? When we come to the word *soul*, we know from our background that it means a living creature or a living person. But are you aware that it refers to appetites, affections or feelings. In the Bible, *soul*, it's talking about our emotions. Let's look at it, look at Mark 14 verse 34, it can, excuse me I should say, it can talk about those. It can talk about the other things as well. Mark 14 verse 34 we'll find the words of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch.'"

Do you know what the Greek word for *soul* is? I am going to teach you a Greek word today, and every single one of you is going to remember it. Here is the Greek word for soul, "psyche." Did you ever hear that before? Psychology, psychiatry is the study of the emotions. The soul is the center of emotions. And Jesus was sorrowful in His soul. Now, the word soul is associated in English, soulful means expressing feelings of emotions, soulless is having no warmth, a soul-mate is being emotionally bonded, you know, soul-mates. God wants you, with the gift He has given you of a spouse, He wants you to be bonded in spirit, and bonded in soul. He wants your affections to be so intertwined with the other, that you are inseparable. That mind and heart will be intertwined. Now this takes time, but that is the very glue that holds relationships together. And that is the very part of it that is so difficult. Lack of attention regarding the spirit and the soul will cause a marriage to go into failure. It requires time.

Fellows, let me explain something to you. When you get married, you are not marrying one of the guys. You know, you hear people joke about women being high maintenance. It's an honor to give maintenance to a woman. Let me tell you what I mean. Yes, there is an "Amen." Suppose fellows you had a Ferrari in your garage, and you could bring it out one day a week. I don't know if it's Sunday, Saturday, I don't know what day you drive your Ferrari? But you bring it out one day a week. And when you do, you like to head up to the mountains so you can do those tight curves and hear the tire squealing as you go around, and blow the doors of other vehicles, and just, I mean you are just into that thing. Tell me, would you give any maintenance to that car? Fellows, would you? Absolutely! Would it be a burden? No, it'd be a pleasure! Tinker with it here, tinker with it there, wash it, keep it polished, make sure the air/pressure is right; the oil is changed and that it's tuned up all the time. No problem at all! Why? Because you love the Ferrari – are you getting this guys? Are you getting this?

You are married to a very, very complicated, finely tuned human being who requires time, energy and effort but man, when you spend the time, you are going to hear the war-rum of an engine that is well worth the effort. Women want to be connected in the spirit and in the soul, more so than men do. They require it. Intimacy is developed at that level. Intimacy, I was told today, after the first service that somebody heard this just this last weekend, that definition of intimacy is: "Into me you see." That's where she wants you. She wants you mind to be engaged with her, she wants your heart to be engaged with her. It takes time. More time than you are wanting to give by nature, but it's worth it fellows. It's worth it. Spend time there.

Well, there is more. Look at First Thessalonians 5 verse 23. It says this: "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit, soul and body be..." ah, "body!" You know, I have told Karen

down through the years; see I memorized one part of our marriage vows. I know them by heart, "To have and to hold." Yes sir! You know, God designed the body to be held. God designed the body to express itself in love. And Christianity is the only major religion that doesn't duck and run from it. It's a blessing from God. And it's an important part of being one in this union called "marriage." In fact, most people, their initial attraction to another person will be because of the body; the hair, the teeth, the eyes, the smile, the walk, the gestures, all these things.

You know from time to time you'll hear people say, "Oh no, I wasn't attracted to them at all, but after I got to know them, wow, I realized they were a beautiful person." You see that. Many times is quite the opposite. "Whoa, I was attracted but man, once I got to know them..." And this is so much a part of us that I don't know if you've been around middle school girls, junior high girls and listen to them talk? I grew up with three sisters. I just hated this kind of talk, but it's "Oh, he is so cute! Oh, he is so cute!" When I grew up we would watch Walt Disney on Sunday evening. And Curt Russell was on there all the time. And my two older sisters, ah they'd wet themselves over that guy. "Oh, he is so cute!" I hated that saying. I couldn't imagine somebody saying that about me, "Oh, he is cute" you know.

And guys, you have to wait a little while. They become teenagers; they really pick up on that too. And I can remember, I've never been in a locker room where I heard the guys saying, "Hey dude, dig that chick, I mean, have you ever been into her mind? I mean, wow, can she think!" It just doesn't happen, you know. There is just something about the body. It's powerful; we are going to talk about lust next week because it's important to understand what it is, and what it is not. But God has given us a body, and blessed us with a body, and we are attracted to each other physically. And He has given us a mechanism to express love in a physical way. And we ought not to run from it. In fact, the counsel in the scripture is quite contrary.

Look at First Corinthians chapter 7. This is an interesting passage. First Corinthians 7: 1-5 it says, "Now, concerning the things of which you wrote me, it is good for a man not to touch a woman, nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise, also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body..." and, that's all you need to know fellows. We can go home. Oops, it goes on, "...but the husband does. And likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does." Wow, this is really oneness, isn't it? "Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time." Deprive one another of what? Well, you figure it out. "...that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self control."

We have been gifted to each other for the purpose of physical satisfaction in the context of marriage. It's a gift from God. It's a wonderful gift. But I have some counsel for you guys. Fellows, seek to connect with your wife in the spirit and in the soul. And women, do not deprive your husband, or you will never connect with him in the spirit and in the soul. Back to the men, court her, listen to her, share with her, seek to be one with her. And ladies, if you always have a headache, you are headed for a heartache. If you are not sure what that means, you can talk to somebody afterwards. Marriage is a sacred, holy union designed by God. A place where He would dwell in the life of two people; a place where there will be a heaven on earth; a place where we can learn about God like we cannot anywhere else. Each spouse is given to the other as a gift from God. The question is: are we despising the gift? Are we taking it lightly, or are we appreciating the gift? Because it is the one thing God has given us that makes us feel loved and accepted.

I tell you brothers and sisters, there are thousands and thousands of ways to seek after acceptance. But all of them are passing fads unless we are doing it God's way. And God's way is one in marriage, one in spirit, one in soul, one in the body. And in that context, we will learn about being one with God. Now, I want you to understand, what

I've just described is absolutely, totally and completely impossible without Christ in the heart. If you don't have Jesus in the heart, I don't care how much you think you are in love, your marriage will never be what God wants it to be. It just can't be. But when you have Christ in your heart, and He is living through you, you then will be able to love the way He wants you to love. You will listen, you will be kind, you will be appropriate, and you will have a chance to be one in spirit, soul and body.

And some of you have Christ in your hearts, but the stresses of life, the difficulties, the heartaches; you may have been taking it out on that gift that God has given you. You may be seeking appreciation and acceptance in other places? It's time to bring it back home. It's time to have some tear-filled conversations. It's time to say, "We are sorry, and we want to move forward." God will bless you. He will turn things around in your home. Today, I want to know if there is anyone here who wants Jesus to be in their heart, so He can be in their home. And if that is your desire, please stand and let Him know.

"Father in heaven we need You, and we acknowledge that. And we ask for Jesus to come into our hearts, and for Jesus to come into our homes. And for those who are married I pray that there will be oneness there. For those who are considering marriage, I pray that they will create oneness. And for those who aren't married Lord, I pray that in Your will, in Your time, You will bring them a soul mate. We ask and pray this in Jesus' name, Amen."