***Seven Mountain Principles #3*** 5-15-22

**Bottom Line: God looks at the heart not the ego.**

**Introduction:**

 A. Marriage is learning and growing in our knowledge of one another. It never stops even after all we know!

 1. The Newly Wed Game?

 2. Wife of a serial killer – never knew!

 B. We are building a relationship with God! He knows you, but do you know him? A true seeker never stops learning!

 C. Matthew 5,6, &7 is what Jesus wants us to know about God! Things essential to our relationship with him.

 1. Principle 1 – God loves seekers! (5:3-12)

 2. Principle 2 – God loves honest transformation! (5:13-20)

 D. Today, **principle 3 – God looks at the heart not the ego!**

 1. Heart vs. Ego struggle since the beginning of creation.

 2. Internal godliness vs. external appearance!

 E. This was a major theme of Jesus’ teaching.

 1. The Pharisee & Tax collector, Lk 18

 2. Rich young ruler, Mt.19

 3. The widow’s two very small copper coins, Lk 21

 F. Principle #3, hearts over egos, opening part of lesson…

**1. “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago”**

 A. Everyone believed and taught external appearance = law!

 B. It didn’t produce godliness or deeper relationship w/ God

 C. It produced: Pride, self-righteousness, and Pharisees!

**2. “But I tell you…”** Jesus brings it back to God will!

 A. Proud about no **murders**! Angry, mean, bitter, hate, grudges! (vs.23-26) “In danger of the fire of hell.”

 B. **Adultery?** Lust! Temptation obsession! Radical removal! (vs.27-30)

 C. **Divorce?** Legal certificate! Covenant? (vs.31-32)

 D. **Acceptable oaths?** Legal distinctions! Integrity! Word is your bond? (vs.33-37)

 E. **Revenge?** Payback response! Godly response? (vs.38-42)

 F. **Selective love?** (vs.43-48) Love all! Connect w/ God! vs.48

**3. Why do we need to be careful about our hearts?**

 A. God’s display screen into our lives in our hearts!

 B. Proverbs 4:23 (NLT) ***“Guard your heart about all else, for it determines the course of your life.”***

 C. He is reading the hard drive not looking at the case!

**Conclusion:**

A. Jesus explained who was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven! Be like this child! What? How?

B. Three W’s: Wash! (Acts 22:16); Wisdom! (Phil.4:8); Walk! (1 Jn.1:7)

C. ***“Guard your heart above all else…”***