



Promises to Keep

Matthew 5:27-37

GATHERING

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Evening Song** “The Gospel in a Word is Love”
[<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20090429082037AAtEzg8>]

Love, Love, Love, Love; The Gospel in a word is Love
Love your neighbor as your brother; Love, Love, Love

Peace, Peace, Peace, Peace; The Gospel in a word is Peace
Peace that passes understanding; Peace, Peace, Peace

Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy; The Gospel in a word is Joy
Joy that fills to overflowing; Joy, Joy, Joy

Christ, Christ, Christ, Christ; The Gospel in a word is Christ
Love Him, serve Him, and adore Him; Jesus Christ

- **Hear the Story...**

READING

- **Read Text aloud [standing, sitting, walking – but don’t go far away]**
- **Re-read silently and consider the questions that follow...**

RESPONDING

- **Why do we take Jesus’ words literally some times, but not others?**
- **How are Jesus’ values the same as – or different from, those of society regarding adultery? divorce?**
- **Is there a difference between “looking at”, and “seeing”?**
- **How would a literal interpretation of Jesus’ teaching about vows affect interpersonal, commercial, and diplomatic relationships?**

SHARING

- **How do you see spirituality and sexuality connected – or not?**
- **Do you think people generally have different standards for themselves than for others?**
- **Whose values are represented on supermarket/TV tabloids?**

CLOSING

- **Grace/Benediction**

Matthew 5:27-37 [NRSV]

[Jesus said,]

27 'You have heard that it was said,

“You shall not commit adultery.”

28But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust
has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away;

it is better for you to lose one of your members

than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

30And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away;

it is better for you to lose one of your members

than for your whole body to go into hell.

31 'It was also said,

“Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.”

32But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife,

except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery;

and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

33 'Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times,

“You shall not swear falsely,

but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.”

34But I say to you, Do not swear at all,

either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,

35or by the earth, for it is his footstool,

or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

36And do not swear by your head,

for you cannot make one hair white or black.

37Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”;

anything more than this comes from the evil one.