

**MIND WARS**  
**The Power Zone V**  
**Mt. 5:27-30**

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. Solutions of the World.
  - 1. The financial superstructure – Earn.
  - 2. The educational community – Learn.
  - 3. The radical counterculture – Burn.
  - 4. The popularity superstructure – Fame.
  - 5. The psychologists - Blame.
  - 6. The military counterculture – Maim.
- B. Solutions According to Jesus.
  - 1. *“You know the next commandment pretty well, too: ‘Don’t go to bed with another’s spouse.’ But don’t think you’ve preserved your virtue simply by staying out of bed. Your heart can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your body. Those leering looks you think nobody notices – they also corrupt. Let’s not pretend this is easier than it really is. If you want to live a morally pure life, here’s what you have to do: You have to blind your right eye the moment you catch it in a lustful leer. You have to choose to live one-eyed or else be dumped on a moral trash pile. And you have to chop off your right hand the moment you notice it raised threateningly. Better a bloody stump than your entire being discarded for good in the dump.”* (Matthew 5:27-30, *The Message*).
  - 2. Jesus says, *“Get to the root of the problem.”*
    - a. *“Losing an eye or hand better than losing soul to hell.”*
    - b. Example of a kleptomaniac, a habitual thief.
  - 3. *“The real source of your problem is your mind.”* Matthew 15:18-19

**I. DEALING WITH ROOT CAUSES OF PROBLEMS.**

*Larry Calvin, (Power Zone), gives 9 suggestions on getting to the root of the problem.*

- A. Prepare Your Mind for War, Eph. 6:10-17.
  - 1. Last week we mentioned that controlling our words and anger demanded effort.
  - 2. We are in a spiritual battle for our souls.
- B. Control Your Thoughts, Phil. 4:8.
  - 1. You control the *eye-gate* to the brain.
    - a. Example of David and Bathsheba.
    - b. Job 31:1, *“I made a covenant with my eyes, how then could I gaze at a virgin?”*
    - c. We need to be selective in what we watch and read.
  - 2. You control the *ear-gate* to your brain.
    - a. Avoid places where the talk is not enriching.
    - b. Be selective in what we listen to. *Be Careful Little Hands.*
  - 3. You are in control of your *mental focus* and *self-talk*.
    - a. *“You can’t keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from making a nest in your hair.”*
    - b. Push escape button when treading on dangerous ground.

- C. Develop Positive habits, Mt. 12:43-45.
  - 1. Not enough to clean out the negative, must fill with positive.
- D. Remove Self From Center Stage, 2 Tim. 3:2 (vs. 4b).
  - 1. Wanting things to go my way.
- E. Declare Jesus as Lord. Who is on your throne today? Rom. 13:14
- F. Get the Lord's Approval. What would Jesus do? Galatians 2:20
  - 1. Book, *In His Steps*. A minister and congregation agree to ask "What would Jesus do?" and then act on the answer.
  - 2. Is it possible that we are trying to make Jesus in our image?
- G. Choose an Accountability Partner, Gal. 6:1-2.
  - 1. Not for the purpose of policing each other.
  - 2. Someone we can confide in to help us stay on track.
- H. Confront Your Blind Spots, Jas. 1:23-24.
  - 1. May need help in seeing blind spots.
  - 2. I.e., Cathy with my music directing.
- I. Accept Personal Responsibility, Jas. 5:16; 1 Jn. 1:9-10.