

LEAVING LUST

MATTHEW 5:27-30

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - OCTOBER 20, 2024

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:27-30 ESV

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

When you hear the word 'lust', what is your first mental, emotional, or visceral reaction?

SERMON RECAP

To lust is to gaze at another person who is not our spouse with the intention to gratify sexual desire.

- Christianity is not anti-beauty.
- Christianity is not anti-sexual desire.
- Christianity is not anti-sex.

The biblical view is that sex, within the confines of marriage, is good and designed by God (Genesis 2:24). The problem lies in sinful distortions of that desire.

In your war against lust--

- Receive the heart transformation that comes from the gospel.
- Exercise the power to obey that comes from the gospel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read Matthew 5:27-30 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share observations about it.
 - To what portion of the Old Testament law did Jesus refer in this passage? (Matthew 5:27)
 - What deeper understanding did Jesus offer to clarify the meaning of this law? (Matthew 5:28)
 - What part of a person did Jesus identify as the source of violations of this law? (Matthew 5:28)
 - How did Jesus describe the proper response to this violation of the law, this sin? (Matthew 5:29a, 30a)
 - How did Jesus describe the potential impact of the improper response to this sin? (Matthew 5:29b, 30b)
2. How would you explain or summarize today's passage in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. What stands out to you most as you read and consider today's passage?
2. Jesus declared that He did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them. Therefore, share observations about Jesus' words in today's passage in light of several related Old Testament texts (and their contexts):
 - Exodus 20:14 and Deuteronomy 5:18
 - Leviticus 20:10
 - Jeremiah 29:22-23
3. Considering Matthew 5:29-30, how seriously is the sin of lust in Jesus' estimation?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. There is a vast difference between lust and the love of God:

- Love is patient (1 Corinthians 13:4). Lust wants it now.
- Love gives. Lust takes.
- Love does not insist on his own way (1 Corinthians 13:5). Lust is all about you having what you want.

Between love and lust, which one(s) mainly animates your heart (cf. Matthew 5:28)? Explain your answer.

2. In your personal estimation, how serious is the sin of lust? Considering Matthew 5:29-30, how closely does your estimation of its seriousness resemble that of Jesus's teaching?
3. Read Proverbs 6:32, Ezekiel 16:38, 1 Corinthians 6:18, and Matthew 5:29b. In your estimation, how might lust affect you? How might it affect others (e.g., the possible objects of your lust and the resulting objectification)?
4. Reread Matthew 5:29a and 30a. In what area is God calling you to treat lust more seriously? What is He calling you to do about it? How far are you willing to go to rid your heart of lust?
5. Read Ezekiel 36:25-27 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5. Jesus intends to not only modify your behavior - He wants to renovate your heart. In what ways do you need/want the Lord to sanctify your heart to overcome the sin and idolatry of lust? In what ways do you need/want Him to animate your life more by His love and the fullness of the freedom and joy known only in Him?

LEADER NOTES

ELECTION PRAYER NIGHT | If you plan to vote on November 5, please be sure to do it early and then join us that same evening for a time of devoted prayer with our pastors from 7-9 pm at MBC Tysons. All locations are invited!

MBC TYSONS DISCIPLESHIP SEMINARS | Join us for the upcoming MBC Tysons Discipleship Seminars on November 16. These seminars will be half-day sessions on specific topics that are designed to help us grow as disciples of Jesus. Each seminar will be 3 hours long, to include teaching, group discussion, Q&A, and opportunities to practice the topic being covered. For more information on topics covered and to register, click on the [link](#).