

LUST KILLS LOVE

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 have your eyes or your hands caused you to get into trouble?

SERMON RECAP

- Jesus exposes the world's distortion of our sexuality.
 - FANTASY: Sexual freedom leads to personal and social improvement.
 - TRUTH: God's good gift of sexuality should only be enjoyed in the covenant relationship of marriage.
- Succumbing to sexual desires outside of marriage is not freedom, it is bondage.
 - Sexual relations outside the boundaries of a lifelong, covenant marriage is not only MORALLY WRONG but also PERSONALLY HARMFUL.
- Distortions of what God designed will always lead to our harm.
 - It can stunt our emotional and relational maturity.
 - It can rewire our brain.
 - It can rob us of true intimacy.
- Jesus affirms God's good design for our sexuality.
 - Jesus pronounces adultery as an internal sin, not just an external one.
 - It's not just the action, it's the motive, and it's the heart.
 - Lust doesn't free you; it enslaves you.
 - Lust always wants more. It drives you into yourself.
 - Lust doesn't give life. It robs you of life.
 - Lust destroys your ability to love. Lust kills love.
 - When we turn to Jesus, He brings forgiveness and he also delivers freedom. He cleanses us and gives us a pure heart. He gives us a strong heart that grows in God-honoring desires.
- Jesus gives us a roadmap toward healing.
 - We must deal drastically with sexual sin.
 - We must seek honest relationship and wisely assess what tempts us.
 - We must explore ourselves deeply, and we must abide in Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read Matthew 5:27-30 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - What sins are mentioned and what human organ do they impact (Matthew 5:27-28)?

- What counsel does Jesus offer for the sinful eye in verse 29?
- What counsel does Jesus offer for the sinful hand in verse 30?
- How would you summarize Matthew 5:21-26?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Read Matthew 5:27-28 and Isaiah 41:13
 - How does God define lust and adultery?
 - How is lust a sin of the heart and how does it impact the heart?
 - How does a sinful heart affect the rest of the body?
 - How can Isaiah 41:13 give us hope as we deal with any kind of sin in our lives?
2. Read Matthew 5:29
 - What are some of the ways that the world gives us to use our eyes sinfully?
 - How can our eyes be used to distort good into evil?
 - How does seeing sinful things cause us to lust to see or do more sinful things?
 - When we fix our eyes on Jesus, how does it improve our eyesight?
3. Matthew 5:30 and Colossians 3:5-6
 - How might the world encourage us to use our hands sinfully?
 - How does taking sinful things into our hands lead us to lust for more sinful things?
 - What happens when we take things into our own hands that are better left in Jesus' hands?
 - How can Colossians 3:5-6 ground us in the truth of how Jesus can fix our 'wrong-handedness'?

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

1. The World Distorts!
 - Where might past experiences hamper your present life?
 - Where is false fantasy taking you down a path that grows increasingly darker?
 - Where and for what are you tempted to lust?
 - How can your Church Group help you not to be led into temptation?
2. Jesus is the Designer!
 - How do you see the world right now?
 - How did Jesus design the world to be and how did we get where we are?
 - What can you do to see the world as Jesus intended it to be?
 - How can your Church Group support you as seek to improve your vision?
3. Jesus is the Healer!
 - Where might desire for pleasing yourself be leading you into temptation?
 - What radical work (Colossians 3:5) do you need to do to restore a biblical worldview to your life?
 - In what ways might you be failing to submit to Jesus and His will?
 - How can your Church Group pray for the healing that only Jesus can provide?