

The Gospel of Matthew: Sermon on the Mount: Lesson Six

Against Lust: Matthew 5:27-32 (February 22 & 23)

Read Matthew 5:27-32

1. Hyperbole is defined as ***exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally***. What is the role of hyperbole in communication?

2. Why do you think Jesus use such vivid, hyperbolic language that calls people to cut off body parts that cause sin?

3. Why aren't there more one-eyed, one-armed Christians walking around? See also Matthew 18: 7-9.

4. Sexuality is difficult to discuss for many reasons. What has been your experience talking about sexuality and sexual sin in the context of the local church?

5. Why do you think Jesus teach on difficult topics such as anger, lust, murder, adultery, and divorce? What does this tell us about Jesus' character?

6. Jesus continues to link inner thoughts (anger, lust) with outer actions (murder, adultery.) What does this tell us about human nature and human behavior?

7. What can followers of Jesus do to develop a perspective that views others as fully human, divine image-bearers as opposed to a perspective that objectifies others?

8. Why is an internal search for value and worth regarding sexuality a dangerous path?

9. How does Jesus' teaching on sexual purity increase your dependence upon him?

10. In this passage, Jesus addresses adultery by referring the people back to the 10 Commandments. (Deuteronomy 5: 1-21.) Jesus links two commandments, "You shall not commit adultery" and "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife." Why do you think that he links these two commandments together?

11. Jesus seems to be adding to the law, not making it easier. In our struggles, how should this drive us again and again to Christ and not to despair or surrender to besetting sin?

12. How can Christians support one another who are in a struggle with sexual sin?

13. How does Philippians 4: 4-8 give us guidance in how to navigate our thought life?

14. In verse 31, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 24:1 but adds another dimension. Why does he do this?

15. Based on this passage, how would you describe God's ethic of marriage and sexuality? See also Genesis 2:24.