



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SERMON ON THE MOUNT WEEK 4: MATTHEW 5:27-32

Community Group Study Guide - Week of February 14, 2021

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ gives us the manifesto for the Christian life. He tells us how to enter the Kingdom of God: "Repent and believe"; He also gives us the roadmap for how to live a repentant and blessed life. One of the most counterintuitive truths from His sermon is that God demands holistic submission, not just with our bodies, but with our hearts and minds.

Here in [Matthew 5:27-32](#), Jesus says: "Everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Jesus teaches that he is not only Lord over our behavior and belief, but also over our beholding. With beholding, it is meant that Jesus is Lord over what we see with our mind's eye -- our imagination.

The reason imagination is so important is it shapes our lives. You imagine an ideal future reality, and if the imagined reality is captivating enough, you begin to work toward it. Imagination controls the will. Furthermore, as with every one of our faculties since the Fall in the Garden of Eden, man's imagination is sinful. Thus, as we repent of our sins and submit to Jesus Christ, we must submit our imaginations to Him. He redeems our imaginations and gives us power to imagine how to glorify Him.

According to Christ, taking every thought captive to God's word and his promises is no passive matter for a Christian. His instructions in verses 29-30 reveal the urgency with which we should proactively fight to keep our thoughts pure. Though the root of lust begins at the heart level, one must be careful to not just spiritualize his or her battle with it. Christ's use of hyperbole in these verses shows that Christians should take proactive and intentional measures to fight the desires of our heart and mind when we begin to think that we can have true and lasting satisfaction in anything apart from relationship with Him.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand the power of one's imagination in life and worship of God.

Heart

To trust that only God can satisfy the deepest longings of our heart.

Hands

To fight inordinate desire for things and experiences of this world in our minds with desire for intimate relationship and communion with God, and to mortify such desire by taking proactive practical measures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Members Meeting will be held THIS Sunday, February 21 at 3PM in the Temple Sanctuary.

Please go to <https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/serve> to sign up to serve on the Mini Mo or Usher Team.

A **Baptism Seminar** will be held on February 28, at 1:15PM in the basement of the Temple. Email admin@mosaicboston if you plan to attend.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 5:27-32

1. How would you describe the level of activity of your imagination?
2. How has your imagination served to benefit you or hinder you in life (work, relationships, service, etc.)?
3. What do verses 27-30 teach about Christ's understanding of the power of imagination in a person's life?
4. In verses 27-30, how does Jesus raise the level of obedience that he expects of his followers (beyond behavior and belief)?
5. What is lust? Describe the process by which one's lustful thoughts translate into actions in a person's life.
6. According to the Bible, what is the end result of following the lusts of one's heart? How does this result direct one to a better understanding of man's ultimate source of purpose, rest, peace, joy, and love?
7. **Read verses 29-30.** What do these verses tell us of the nature of the response that we should have when we identify the existence of lust in our heart?
8. How does the Bible tell us how to fight lust (see Philippians 4:8-9)? Why do many people who know the Biblical approach to fighting lust still struggle with lust?
9. After listening to and reflecting on the sermon, do you feel the need to take any immediate measures to fight lust (for anything) in your heart? How can we help each other as a group (or as smaller groups within our group) fight/mortify lust? (Reading James 5:16 and 19 might be an effective way to encourage transparency and care among members of your group.)
10. Did you learn anything new about marriage or relationships by reading this text and/or listening to the sermon?