



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 5:27-32” on May 17th

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed from Matthew 5:17-26 affect your week?

DISCOVER - MATTHEW 5:27-32

SINFUL NATURE and TRUSTING JESUS: Every one of us struggles with choosing between the desires of our own sinful nature and what Jesus and the Scriptures say is best for us! Today's culture offers a plethora of ways for us to satisfy the desires of our hearts, but it also blinds us to consider the consequences that may come with our sinful choices.

God's timing vs. OUR timing:

- Can you describe a time you prayed for something, but God didn't answer that prayer soon enough, so you forged ahead, your own way and the outcome wasn't so great? What were the consequences of that impatience?
- What does that teach you about where you should place your trust?

What FEELS GOOD right now vs. What Jesus has taught about Christian living: We are all guilty of making decisions based on what feels good while not considering consequences.

- How could you lovingly confront and encourage someone close to you who is about to make such a choice, and how could you point him/her to repentance and trusting Jesus?

What you THINK vs. What you ACT on: Jesus teaches that the heart can be corrupted as well as the body, and one is just as guilty as the other. Jesus cares more about our insides than our outsides.

- How does what you THINK about match up with what you ACT upon?
- Knowing that your thoughts reveal the motives of your heart, what do you need to get rid of and repent of, trusting Jesus to lead you forward?

REPENTANCE and JESUS' GRACE: None of us is without sin! But the Bible is full of story after story showing how God used sinful, broken people who REPENTED to accomplish His purposes and to do great things. None of us are too broken to be used by Him if we turn our backs on our sinful natures in repentance and receive Jesus' grace!

- What desires of your heart are you clinging to, knowing they are not pleasing to God?
- What keeps you from saying, "I am wrong – I need help."?
- How has God anchored you and enabled you to win the battle with your sinful nature and act in obedience to Him? With whom could you share your experiences as an encouragement to them?

GOD'S PURPOSES: God's purposes for the CHURCH, for MARRIAGE, and for US as individuals are all the same: To represent HIM so the world knows how good He is. We do that by showing generosity, self-sacrifice, goodness, and servant hearts to the world.

- How can the Church, YOUR Christian community, help believers guard against the temptations bombarding us in our culture and prepare us to represent WHO GOD IS to the world around us?
- How can self-sacrifice lead to greater joy in your marriage or in a close relationship?
- What could God be asking you to do to show generosity and goodness to someone in this COVID-19 shelter-in-place life?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

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RESPOND

Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you as you watch CU Church online next week?

Do I need to have a repentance conversation this week? There is freedom, grace, and forgiveness in repentance.

PRAY

Praying for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.

KEEP READING

Keep Reading: Matthew 19:3-9 where Jesus answers the pharisees question about divorce by talking about God’s purpose for marriage. Ephesians 5:1-33 where Paul talking about being Imitators/Followers.