

The Kingdom Standard for Looking, Lusting, and Divorcing

Kingdom Culture | Part 4 | Matthew 5:27-32

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

Imagine with me the ancient city of Troy. After 10 years of war, the Greeks appeared to give up and left behind a massive wooden horse. The Trojans thought they had won, so they dragged the horse into their city as a trophy. But that night, Greek soldiers hidden inside slipped out, opened the gates, and let in the army. Troy was destroyed — not from the outside, but from the inside. That’s exactly what Jesus warns us about in Matthew 5:27–32. In His day, the Pharisees focused on external sins like adultery and divorce, but Jesus said the real battle begins on the inside. The world may see the external fruit, but Jesus sees the internal root. And lust in your heart is like the Trojan horse — if you let it in, it will destroy you from the inside out.

KEY POINTS

1. The Root of Lust (Matthew 5:27–28)

Jesus quoted the command, “Do not commit adultery,” but then went deeper, saying, “Everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Before adultery happens in a bed, it happens in your head. Lust isn’t just about looking — it’s about a heart consumed with desire that dethrones God.

The Pharisees thought adultery was only an action, but Jesus taught that in Kingdom Culture, it begins with an attitude. The Greek word for “look” indicates a continuous gaze, not a passing glance. When your glance turns into a gaze, you’ve already welcomed sin inside. That’s why Job said, “I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?” (Job 31:1).

Statistics show we have a pornography and sexual sin crisis — even among Christians. The Bible says the root of adultery is lust, and the root of lust is sin. The solution isn’t external because the cause isn’t external. That’s why we must guard our eyes, minds, hearts, and thoughts, and honor the covenant of marriage. As John Owen once said, “Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.”

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What practical steps can you take to guard your eyes, mind, and heart against lust?
2. What are some things you might need to “burn” or eliminate from your life in order to remove temptation and pursue holiness?
3. How does seeing marriage as a covenant with God — not just a contract with another person — shape the way you view relationships?
