

Different On Purpose: Where Desire Leads Matthew 5:27-30

Passage

Matthew 5:27-30 You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 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. 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.

Sin Begins in the Heart Before It Shows Up in Behavior

Assertion

- Jesus says, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Possible Objection

- Isn't that too strong? I mean, noticing someone's attractiveness isn't the same as committing adultery.

Application

- When a lustful or misdirected thought enters your mind: Redirect immediately to something true and honoring: Prayer, Scripture, think on something else.
- Biblical grounding: 2 Corinthians 10:5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,
- Why it matters: The battle is often won or lost in the first few seconds. What you entertain will eventually shape you.

Lust Objectifies What God Designed to Be Honored

Assertion

- Jesus says, "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent."

Possible Objection

- But no one else is affected. This is private. It's just in my mind.

Application

- When you notice someone and feel temptation: This is a person made in God's image, not an object for my consumption.
- Biblical grounding: Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- Why it matters: You cannot simultaneously objectify someone and intercede for them. This retrains your heart toward honor.

Sinful Desire Is Progressive and Dangerous

Assertion

- Jesus says, "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."

Possible Objection

- Isn't Jesus being extreme here? That sounds like an overreaction.

Application

- What consistently leads me down the wrong path? Then take one concrete step this week to eliminate or reduce it.
- Biblical grounding: James 1:14-15 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
- Why it matters: Sin rarely appears out of nowhere, it follows predictable pathways. Break the pathway early.

What You Tolerate Will Eventually Shape You

Assertion

- Jesus says, "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away."

Possible Objection

- Can't I manage this? Do I really need to take drastic steps?

Application

- Don't just remove; replace.
- Biblical grounding: Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Why it matters: Your heart is being formed by what you consistently take in. Transformation requires intentional input.

Radical Amputation Leads to Real Freedom

Assertion

- Jesus says, "For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell."

Possible Objection

- But won't that make life restrictive? Isn't that a loss of freedom?

Application

- Set a specific measurable boundary Then tell a trusted godly person.
- Biblical grounding: James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
- Why it matters: Private struggles thrive in isolation. Freedom grows in the light of accountability.

Conclusion

- The question is: If I keep going this way, where will this lead me?