

Study of Matthew

October 9th, 2022

Discussion Question: What do you do when your eyes start wondering?

Matthew 5:27 – 30

Jesus again addresses the issue of what you have heard people say, but here is what is truth. Jesus sets the standard as righteousness not on seeing how much we can get by with.

What have you ever heard about lust?

Sadly, the American culture see adultery and sexual immorality as an insignificant thing. But Jesus reminds us that if we are going to live righteously then there is a requirement for us as it relates to sexuality.

1. Define Lust (vs. 28a)

Lust here is defined as to set the heart upon, i.e. long for (rightfully or otherwise): covet, desire

There certainly is a difference in admiration and lust. Jesus does not condemn admiring someone's beauty.

Let me go a step further; The Bible doesn't prohibit sexual desire...

Jesus is talking about seeing someone and coveting them in a negative way...it is wanting what is not yours to have.

- *"An affection which is not inspired by the Lord will soon be transformed into lust. Samson is not alone in the history of man in failing in this regard. Delilah is still cutting the hair of man today!" - Watchman Nee*

Jesus is saying when you look and covet what is not yours to have, you have already committed adultery in your heart.

2. Design of the World

1 John 2:14-17 *"I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. 15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."* [KJV]

Lust has become an epidemic in our society.

We have an epidemic of internet pornography in our nation. So much so that some are calling it the new drug of the internet area. It is everywhere and dark forces of satan are trying to invade the soul of a nation and make it even darker.

The negative impact on our children and society is just beginning to be understood and it is not good. It glorifies violence and sexism and youth think that pornography is a realistic depiction of sex. Sexual aggression has increased as more consume pornography.

This epidemic gives a skewed view of the world and how people should behave in a healthy and loving relationship. This is not of God!

3. Drastic Actions (vs. 29 – 30a)

No one thinks that Jesus meant to actually pluck out your eye or cut off your hand.

But HE is saying be ruthless with lust. Have no pity on your lust...show it no compassion. Resist and deny...Tell the most important members of your body, you will get in line...you will not stray. Jack Hayford calls this rigid self-denial.

4. Death that Lust Brings (vs. 30b)

This is a heaven or hell issue.

James 1:13-15 "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." [KJV]