

Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

June 18th

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 5:27-30

Read the passage.

This paragraph begins, as six other paragraphs do in this chapter, with words such as “You have heard it said...But I tell you”. So yet again Jesus here is digging down to address the motives and attitudes underlying actions. In this incident he refers to Exodus 20:14 “you shall not commit adultery” but he focuses on lust as the issue underneath the sin.

Lust Definitions

- *usually intense or unbridled sexual desire - Miriam Webster Dictionary*
- *a very strong sexual desire- Cambridge Dictionary*
- *a strong desire for sexual gratification. - Collins Dictionary*
- *A strong craving or desire, often of a sexual nature. Though used relatively infrequently (twenty-nine times) in Scripture, a common theme can be seen running through its occurrences. The word ‘lust’ is never used in a positive context; rather, it is always seen in a negative light, relating primarily either to a strong desire for sexual immorality or idolatrous worship. - Bakers evangelical dictionary of the Bible*

1. Is there a difference between noticing a person is attractive and lust? If so, what is it?

2. Read James 1:13-15

List the steps in the conception and birth of sin.

Note their parallel process to the human life cycle of conception birth, growth and death.

3. Now read 2 Samuel 11:1-15

List the ways David’s process of committing adultery parallels the James passage.

4. What is Paul’s solution to replacing godless thinking - Philippians 4:8? How might this short circuit lustful thinking?

5. 1 Timothy 5:2 “Treat older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.” How does this text help our mindset to avoid inappropriate thoughts towards others?