

Sermon on the Mount part 5

Lust (Matthew 5:27-30)

1. *Don't Lust:*

Let's continue our study of Jesus' sermon on the mount...

Read Matthew 5:27-30 (while youth follow along in Bibles)

Ask:

- What is lust?
- Do you think lust is more of a guy or girl problem?

Say something like:

It can be hard to go to the video store, mall, or a lot of places without seeing sexy pictures of girls/women or girls/women in sexy clothes!

Ask: Is there a difference between “looking” and “lusting”?

(Use this info to help, as needed: It is okay to notice a girl/guy is attractive. God made guys and girls to be attracted to each other! But, it's not okay to think inappropriate thoughts, look at a person as an object, or look at someone in inappropriate ways.)

Say something like:

Jesus said that lusting is committing adultery in your heart.

- Jesus' example may specifically apply to lustful thoughts about a married person.
- But any sex outside of marriage is wrong. So, lustful thoughts toward anyone is wrong.

Ask: Jesus said to gouge your eye and cut your hand off if they cause you to sin. If people really plucked their eyes out or cut their hands when they caused them to sin, how many people would have eyes and hands?

Explain:

- Most people think Jesus was using “hyperbole” – exaggerating to make a point.
- Jesus is saying it's a big deal and should take drastic measures.
- A Bible scholar named John Stott thinks we should take it something like this: if your eyes are causing you to sin, act as if you plucked them out. Don't look!¹

2. *Don't cause people to lust:*

Ask: Do you think causing people to lust is more of a guy or girl issue?

This is from an article called “Teen Fashions Cast off Modesty.”²

“From decorated bra straps designed for visibility to low-rise jeans... girls' clothing keeps getting sexier.... Girls say it's all about confidence. ‘Clothing like this makes me feel confident,’ says D.C.-area high school student Karen Guitierrez, gesturing to her black tube top. ‘People's eyes are on me, not another girl.’”

¹ John R. W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, The Bible Speaks Today series (Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1978), 89.

² From *Group Magazine*, “In The News” Sept/Oct 2002.

Ask:

- Why do girls often wear revealing/sexy clothes?
- Do you think the U.S. is sexy-obsessed?
- Do you think girls should care about whether or not they're tempting guys?

Read I Timothy 2:9-10 (while everyone follows along):

Explain:

- These verses say that women are supposed to be modest.
- Their beauty should come from their inside – what they do.
- It's okay to be attractive.
- But girls should be modest and not seductive.

3. God's Line Stays the Same:

- The world pushes sexy-ness big time.
- The line on what's right and wrong with modesty keeps being moved.
 - What was shocking and bad before is supposedly okay today.
 - More and more skin on TV, etc. is becoming more and more accepted.

Ask: Do you think God's standard for what is right and wrong has changed?
(*God's line stays the same! Just because people say it's okay, doesn't mean God does!*)

4. Conclusion:

So, based on what the Bible says:

- Don't lust!
 - Avoid movies, etc that will make you lust
 - Look at people respectfully.
- Don't cause people to lust! Treat your body with respect and be modest.

5. Closing Prayer

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