

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (WEEK 7)

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS – FEBRUARY 28, 2010
PASTOR JEFF – LUST & ADULTERY (MT. 5:27-30)

connect

1. What's your name? If you could meet anyone in history, who would you meet & why? Who is the most famous person you've met personally (your "brush with greatness")?
2. What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

study

1. Read Matthew 5:27-30. What was your first reaction to Jesus' words? Explain.
2. This is Jesus' 2nd illustration of a righteousness greater than the scribes & Pharisees (Matt 5:20). Last week He spoke how murder stemmed from anger in the heart. This week, He teaches adultery" stems from lust in the heart. Read Exodus 20:14,17. How do the 7th & 10th commandments overlap? What is coveting? Define it. How are lust & coveting alike? Can you commit adultery without ever having sexual intercourse?
3. In the 7th commandment, God upholds the preciousness of marriage & His good gift of sex in marriage. Can you list some consequences & damage adultery brings in its wake?
4. What stood out to you about the definition and characteristics of lust? Is all looking the same as lusting? Why is lusting such a destructive practice?
5. Some Christians have taken verses 29-30 literally and mutilated their bodies. How does self-mutilation fail to solve the problem of lust? How do you think Jesus intends us to correctly understand His warning? (Matthew 18:8-9; Romans 8:13). How do we put habits & images we've grown attached to, to death?

****Here's a suggestion—in your Life Group, move into 2 separate groups (women w/women, men w/men) discuss questions 5 & 6, then come back together to discuss questions 8-11.*

6. What safeguards have you personally found most helpful in battling lust (either for sex or intimacy)? If you need ideas, see back of Sunday's message notes, or add your own.
7. Why do you think Jesus specifically references our eyes and our hands? How can they play a role with lust & adultery in the heart? (cf. Job 31:1; 2 Peter 2:14; Genesis 3:6)
8. What are some ways we can use our eyes and our hands to interact in a holy, healthy way with people of the opposite sex (Romans 6:11-13; 1 Timothy 5:1-2)? What happens in a church family when instead of lusting, we train ourselves to see each other, not as bodies or objects, but as whole, multi-dimensional persons, made in God's image?
9. *Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20. What does this passage teach us about lust and sexual immorality?*
10. In light of what Jesus teaches in this passage, what do you think He would say in response to the following statements:
 - At a bachelor party, a friend of the groom leans over and whispers to the groom, "In two days you will be married. You can't touch another woman, but that doesn't mean you can't keep looking!"
 - A woman is talking to a friend about a coworker. She says, "I have lusted after that man a hundred times. I might as well go ahead and have an affair with him. The Bible says I have done it in my heart already...so what's the difference?"
 - A TV ad agent says to a marketing team, "Let's show as much skin as we can in this commercial. We all know that sex sells! It won't hurt anyone and it will boost our sales!"

- A guy says to his friend, "I'm a Christian, and my girlfriend and I are committed to wait until we are married to have sex. When I feel tempted, I just leave her, spend some time looking at women in magazines and on the Internet, and then I feel satisfied. I think God understands that this is what I need to do so I can honor Him in my dating relationship."

11. Do you think on this side of heaven, the in-your-face struggle with lust will ever completely go away? How important is it for us to stay humble instead of cocky? How does the truth of Romans 8:31 help us face this struggle with more courage?

pray

1. Realizing this can be a very sensitive subject, pray that Christ will change us from the inside-as we courageously practice His safeguards to live in faithfulness.
2. Prayer requests – how can you pray for each other this week?