

February 28, 2021

Jesus on Objectification

Matthew 5:27-30

Looking with lust:

Matthew 5:27-28 / James 1:14-15 / Hebrews 4:15 / 2 Corinthians 10:5

- Jesus is not talking about the **appreciation of beauty**.
- Jesus is not talking about **temptation** - the momentary flash of sexual desire.
- Jesus is talking about turning human beings into **objects for sexual gratification** - specifically the **objectification of women**.

Cutting it off:

Matthew 5:29-30 / 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 / 1 Corinthians 13 / 1 Corinthians 7:1-6

- The exercise for anger: **Forgiveness**.
- The exercise for lust: **AMPUTATION**
 1. **RUN** - cut off the source of temptation.
 2. **LOVE**.
 3. **CULTIVATE INTIMACY**.

Life Group Questions

- 1) Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question?
- 2) Read **Matthew 5:27-30** out loud. What similarities do you see to the passage we studied last week? (If you need a refresher, read **Matthew 5:21-26** out loud as a group.)
- 3) Like the Pharisees, so many try to find the line of sin so they can get as close to it as possible without crossing it. Why is this not ok with Jesus?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1) Read the passages below out loud as a group. What do all the verses below have in common with one another? How do they practically relate to our passage today?

Matthew 5:8

*Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should learn to control your own body^[a] in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵ not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶ and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.^[b] The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷ For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:19-22

¹⁹ I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

2 Timothy 1:7

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."² But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.³ The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife.⁵ Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control

2) In **Matthew 5:29-30** Jesus is using hyperbole to communicate that we should take drastic actions in order to follow him, the King of the Kingdom. Read these passages aloud. Why do you think some were willing to take *drastic actions* to follow Jesus but some weren't?

- **Luke 9:57-62**
- **Mark 10:17-22**
- **Philippians 1:21-26**
- **Mark 1:16-20**

What drastic actions do you need to take moving forward in light of tonight's text?

TAKING IT HOME

- 1) What are ways we can fight against lust as we depend on Jesus for our righteousness?
- 2) Consider these practical questions to help you think about **sexual integrity** in a number of areas (conversations, desires, thoughts, actions, dress, dating, social media, etc)
 - Are my actions loving to others?
 - Is this something I'd be proud of?
 - Is this my highest standard?
 - Is this in line with my convictions?
 - Am I doing this for attention?
 - What is my motive for wanting this?
 - Will this benefit others?

3) How much does society impact your beliefs on lust and adultery?

4) What do you need to do to remove the temptation of lust and adultery from your life?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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