

March 11, 2018

Scripture: Matthew 5:27-30

Series: Human Sexuality

Human sexuality and the accompanying issues have been a part of creation from the beginning. How do disciples of Jesus understand the Scriptures, understand cultural realities, and live faithful lives to Jesus in all aspects of their human sexuality?

Matthew Overview:

Author and Date: Matthew was written by the apostle Matthew between 55-65 A.D. Before meeting Jesus, Matthew was a tax collector, a profession that was severely looked down upon by the Jewish people.

First readers and their location: The content of Matthew points to a Jewish Christian audience. Matthew gives significant attention to how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament's emphasis on the "Messiah."

While we can't be certain of the location of the original readers the first known quote from the book of Matthew was made by Ignatius of Antioch around 110 A.D.

Why was it written?: Matthew is an account of the ministry years of Jesus and how he fulfills the Old Testament teaching regarding the Messiah.

Matthew 5:17 (NIV)

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Open-up

In a 2003 Focus on the Family poll, 47% of Christian families said that porn was a problem in their home? How do you react to this statistic?



Into the Bible

Read: Matthew 5:27-30

What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points...) Ask the question, "What does it say?" (For more help on effective Bible Study see the resources at the back)

Jesus quotes the Old Testament passage from Exodus 20:14. What does Jesus point to as the "spirit" behind this command? (Explore the context of this passage by reading the sections before and after Jesus' teaching on adultery)

What does Jesus say our response to sin should be?

How does Luke 15:16 (longed), 16:21 (Longing), Galatians 5:17 (desires) and Revelation 9:6 (long) help you understand the same Greek word lustfully in this passage?

What questions do these passages raise for you?



Into my life

Ask the question, "What does this look like in my life?"

Why do you think Jesus felt the need to highlight lust?

How have you seen the lust impact the lives of those around you?

Jesus is using hyperbole when he says we should cut off our hands and gouge out our eyes? Why do you think he has such a strong response to lust?

What are some practical ways we can respond to the sin of lust?

Is this a hidden sin in your life? Who can you ask to walk with you towards victory in this area?

Other Application Questions:

Is there something to worship or thank God for?

Is there a promise to claim or a truth to believe?

Is there something I am convicted about that I need to work on?

Is there something or someone I need to pray for this week? (Be specific)

Is there any relationship I need to work on?



Into the World

Ask, “what does this look like in my day to day life?”

Even secular society sees that porn and lust has a negative impact on society. What steps will you commit to in addressing this issue?

Prayer List:

My challenge for this week:

More Resources for personal and group use:

<https://www.precept.org/know-gods-word/>

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/1304>

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/195647>

A little about Westwood Church...

We believe that God changes lives!

That motivates us to...

Bring Jesus into Life

By...

...becoming an increasingly healthy, vibrant and effective witness for Jesus in Prince George and around the world!

We do this by engaging in three things:



GATHER

Sunday mornings
to celebrate and
learn about God



GROUPS

Weekly meetings that
go deeper in relation-
ships with each other
and God



GO

Serving in the church
and community to
present Jesus to the
world