

LIVING AS LIGHTS

MATTHEW 5:27-32

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. **Matthew 5:29-30**

I. Right Thinking About Desire

II. Right Thinking About Divorce

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. Do you believe in love at first sight? Why or why not?

Into the Bible

2. Christ has just told his listeners in Matthew 5:17-18 that he did not come to abolish the Law, but instead to fulfill it. In these stark contrasts—“You have heard it said, but I say...”—he distinguishes between external keeping of the Law and the state of one’s heart. Read Hebrews 8:8-13. Verses 8-12 quote Jeremiah 31:31-34, a promise of a new covenant that God will establish for his people. What does verse 13 tell us about the relationship between the old and new covenants?

3. The book of Hosea graphically paints the picture of Israel’s idolatry as spiritual adultery and God’s rightful anger at Israel’s faithlessness. The final chapter of the book, however, pairs their repentance with God’s everlasting mercy. Read Hosea 14:1-4. What do these verses say about our sin and the broken relationship it brings with God, our Heavenly Father?

Application

4. I Corinthians 6:18 urges us to “flee sexual immorality” and II Timothy 2:22 repeats this— “flee youthful lusts.” Running away from temptation is important but not enough. Where does Christ say the real problem of sin begins—the situation or the heart? Go back and reread Matthew 5:3-6, from the beatitudes. How is Jesus’ teaching about adultery and divorce a commentary on these earlier verses? Talk about how we can live that way in our daily lives.

For Families

5. Make sure your children understand what the word “vow” means. Talk with them about the importance of marriage vows and why they are a part of weddings.