

You have a plumbing problem!

Long Beach Alliance Church • February 14, 2016 • Elder Vince Palacios

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 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 5:27-30 (English Standard Version)

1) First things first.

A) What Jesus is not questioning

i.) Exodus 20:14

ii.) Deuteronomy 5:18

B) What Jesus is questioning

C) What are verses 29-30 all about?

2) What does this all mean?

A) Hebrews 1:1-4
1 Corinthians 15:57
2 Corinthians 5:21
Romans 8:37

3) What about Lust? Some practical thoughts.

A) Psalm 119:9-11
James 4:2,3,7
2 Timothy 2:22
Romans 6:12
Romans 13:14
Genesis 39

GROWTH GROUP GUIDE • WEEK 6: MATTHEW 5:21-30

OPENER

"We must recognize, first of all, that the aim of the popular teacher in Jesus' time was not to impart information, but to make a significant change in the lives of the hearers. Of course that may require an information transfer, but it is a peculiarly modern notion that the aim of teaching is to bring people to know things that may have no effect at all on their lives.

In our day learners usually think of themselves as containers of some sort, with a purely passive space to be filled by the information the teacher possesses and wished to transfer - the 'from jug to mug' model. The teacher is to fill in empty parts of the receptacle with 'truth' that may or may not later make some difference to the life of the one who has it. The teacher must get the information into them. We then 'test' the patients to see if they 'got it' by checking whether they can reproduce it in language rather than watching how they live."

-Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

When you come to church or growth group or any church function, do you come anticipating personal change or are you just acquiring more information?

BIBLE STUDY

Read through Matthew 5:21-30

1. Who will be subject to judgment? (5:22)
2. What should someone do before they give an offering to God? (5:23-24)
3. With whom should you quickly reach a settlement? (5:25-26)
4. Who is guilty of the sin of adultery? (5:28)
5. What should you do with offending body parts? (5:29-30)

Read through Psalm 119:1-10

1. What kind of heart do we want before the Lord?
2. How can a young man keep his way pure?
3. Who are happy or blessed?

DISCUSSION

1. How have you dealt with your struggle against sin? How do you feel when you can't control your feelings? How do you tend to respond?
2. How do you think God views you when you sin in your heart? How do you view Him in those moments?
3. As Vince shared, you are basically powerless in your struggle against sin. Only Jesus can really be victorious. What does that actually look like in daily life?

MAKING ROOM TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Talk about your Sunday celebrations...what people did you hang out with? Did any of them not know Jesus? How did your relationship with them change? How can you be praying for them now?

CLOSING PRAYER

Psalm 119:1-10 (HSCB)

How happy are those whose way is blameless, ...and seek Him with all their heart. They do nothing wrong; they follow His ways. You have commanded that Your precepts be diligently kept. If only my ways were committed to keeping Your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed when I think about all Your commands. I will praise you with a sincere heart when I learn Your righteous judgments. I will keep Your statutes; never abandon me. How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping Your word. I have sought You with all my heart; don't let me wander from Your commands....Lord, please refine us. Thank You, Jesus, for fulfilling the Law. Please change our hearts to be more like Yours. Amen.

