

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Week 5

Tip: Due to the subject matter, you might consider splitting up men and women for this discussion.

Read Matthew 5:27-32

Note: The word for “lust” in v. 28 is the same word used to reference coveting in the OT Law. So, Jesus is linking the Law against adultery with the law against coveting. So, the opposite of this lust is not a lack of sexual desire, but *contentment*.

At this time in Israel, there was a major debate among Jews as to the acceptable reasons for divorce, and only husbands could initiate it. Either he could send his wife away for anything that displeased him, or he could only do it in the case of sexual infidelity. Jesus is entering into that argument. Either way, an unmarried woman was in a desperate situation because she could not provide for herself.

Retell: Summarize in your own words what Jesus is saying about the laws prohibiting adultery and divorce.

Discuss: How had the Jews, specifically the Pharisees, “loosened” the Law against adultery? Against divorce?

How was Jesus “fulfilling” the Law?

What is Jesus calling us to “practice” to be consistent with His kingdom?

Application: Take a quiet moment to pray and listen. Are there any struggles with lust, coveting, or discontentment that you feel led to confess tonight? Don’t try to fix each other. Listen, care, support and pray for one another’s struggles (James 5:16)

I HAVE:



