

Battling Lust Matthew 5:27-30

What is Jesus correcting? (vv.27-28)

The Old Testament commanded that we not have lustful thoughts — as we can see from the 10th commandment (you shall not covet your neighbor's wife) and from Job's example (Job 31:1).

So Jesus is not correcting the Old Testament. He's correcting the Scribes' and Pharisees' distortion of the Old Testament. They winked at lustful thoughts — and implied that you were not sinning as long as you did not act on your thoughts.

What exactly is Jesus calling us to do? (v.28)

He's calling us to not have sexual thoughts and feelings towards anyone except our spouse. But don't misunderstand — the Bible honors and celebrates sex within marriage. Marriage is the only place where sexual thoughts, desires, and actions should take place. This is a challenge in our sexually-charged culture.

How does Jesus motivate us? (vv.29-30)

He tells us that pursuing sexual sin could cost us eternity.

Does that mean we can lose our salvation? No ... but keep reading to see why.

When God saves you part of what He does is change your heart so you will pay heed to this warning and fight against sexual sin — and so if you commit sexual sin you will earnestly repent and fight to get back to sexual purity.

So if someone doesn't take this warning seriously, and doesn't fight temptation, that could show they were never saved in the first place.

So Jesus' warning could not be more serious — eternity is at stake.

What should we do?

Turn to Jesus, trust Him, ask Him for help
Resolve to spare no effort.
Consider changing your environment.
Pursue the all-satisfying presence of Jesus.
Talk to your spouse about your sexual relationship with each other.
Get support from brothers or sisters.
If and when you stumble, run back to Jesus.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

In what settings do you struggle with sexual temptation?

Is Jesus really saying that sexual sin could cost you heaven and doom you to hell? Why or why not?

Have you understood that sexual sin could cost you heaven and doom you to hell? Why or why not?

In the past how have you tried to overcome sexual temptation? Have you relied on will-power? Or have you let Jesus' superior pleasure overcome the temptation?

Which of the seven steps is most difficult for you to take? Why?

What are you going to do differently because of these Scriptures?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

MERCY HILL CHURCH SPRING-SUMMER 2012