

Words of the King: Matthew 5:21-30
Discussion Guide, November 8, 2020
Next week's text: Matthew 5:31-37

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 5:20

- In what ways did you keep your motives in check this past week?

OPEN:

- Is it a sin to be tempted by something? Why or why not?
- Is it a sin to thoughtfully entertain sinful acts? Why or why not?

READ and ASK: Matthew 5:21-26

- What age-old prohibition was Jesus addressing in this context?
 - o How did Jesus deepen the meaning?
- What does Jesus say we, as Kingdom citizens, should do if we are in worship and realize that a brother or sister has "something against" us?
 - o What does this communicate about the relationship between our relationship with others (namely other Christians) and our relationship with God?
- How quickly are we to act if we have a relational problem with someone?
 - o What should be our goal if we have a broken relationship with someone? Are there any exceptions to this? (See Romans 12:18)

READ and ASK: Matthew 5:27-30

- What commandment was Jesus interpreting in this text?
 - o How did Jesus deepen the meaning?
- What is the difference between looking and lusting?
- How does culture "bait us to the edge" of adultery?

- What does it practically mean to “gouge out an eye” or “cut off a hand?”
- How does dressing modestly play into this discussion?

APPLY:

- In what way(s) do you need to seek reconciliation with another person asap?
- If you can answer in this context, what changes do you need to make in your reading or viewing habits to avoid temptations of lust?
 - o What three steps can you take this week to protect yourself from the sin of adultery/fornication?
- NEXT STEP: Of everything discussed today and in the sermon, what is one specific action step you need to take right away?

Memory Work:

Option 1: Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. - Matthew 5:23-24

Option 2: You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. - Matthew 5:27-29