

WEEK 7 | MATTHEW 5:27-30

A BEAUTIFUL KINGDOM

As believers in Jesus Christ, and citizens of His Kingdom, we have the unique responsibility to reflect the glory of God to a watching world. In this series, we are studying Jesus's words in the Sermon on the Mount, considering what it means to flourish under His rule and reign, and live as His representatives where we work, live, and play. In Matthew 5:17-48, Jesus gives six antitheses to contrast true and false interpretations of the Old Testament. In today's passage, Jesus corrects misunderstandings of marriage, divorce, and sexual immorality.

“**Antithesis:** the rhetorical contrast of ideas by means of parallel arrangements of words, clauses, or sentences”¹

OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful as you consider this text.

- **Matthew 5:8**
- **Matthew 5:17-20**
- **Psalms 119:9-11**
- **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5**
- **Colossians 3:5-17**

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of this week's scriptures.

1. Did the Holy Spirit use last week's passage or sermon to convict, challenge, or encourage you in any way? Did he use it to confirm or answer a prayer in any way? If you're willing, share with the group?
2. Which beatitude is Jesus illuminating in vv. 27-28?
3. What was Jesus's intention in using figurative language in vv. 29-30?
4. Scripture reveals that God has a beautiful design for sex and intimacy. What is it? Why has he designed things that way?
5. Reflect on your own life and transformation. How have you violated Matthew 5:27-30? What caused you to feel the weight of your sin, and what steps did you take to experience freedom? Who are some people who helped?
6. Read Colossians 3:5-11. What does Matt. 5:29-30 reveal about the seriousness of sexual sin? Why might cutting out your eye or cutting off your hand not be good enough?
7. Read Colossians 3:12-17. How might we “put on” holiness with regard to our sexual ethic? What practices can we give ourselves to? How would your intimacy with God, personal presence, and marriage change?
8. Considering the significance Jesus placed on the heart behind our actions, take some time to consider where your heart needs realignment with the words Jesus. If you're willing, share with the group.

PRAY TO CLOSE.

¹ Merriam-Webster.com