

Series: Upside-Down Kingdom  
Passage: Matthew 5:27-32  
Sunday: May 12, 2024

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**Matthew 5:27-32 (ESV)**

**Lust**

<sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>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.

**Divorce**

<sup>31</sup>“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

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1. Why might Jesus have chosen adultery and divorce as two views to “correct”?
2. Verses 27-30 teach that adultery is a serious matter that is not limited to the act. What damages can committing adultery in the heart create?
3. What does Jesus’ strong language about gouging out the eye and cutting off the hand teach us?
4. Because we live in a highly sexualized culture, we cannot always prevent our eyes from seeing sexual images. How can we protect our eyes?

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5. How can believers help one another fight the sin of lust?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How are lust and divorce connected?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. The Bible describes God's relationship to his people as a marriage. Read Ephesians 5:25-33. How does this teaching help us better understand Jesus' teaching in Matthew?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. In what ways might Jesus' prohibition of divorce be a good thing for us? What are common reasons those in our culture give up on a marriage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. It seems clear that divorce should not be the norm in Christian community. What can the church do to help marriages last?