

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

What is one minor thing that distracts you on a daily basis, and how does it usually manage to pull your attention away?

BACKGROUND

As we previously read, Jesus warned His disciples that *unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven* (Matthew 5:20). This was undoubtedly shocking to them, because the religious leaders were known for their “righteousness”. However, Jesus continued to explain what it really meant to live righteously. Just because you refrain from murdering someone, that does not mean you have achieved righteousness, because *everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment* (v. 22).

Jesus tells us the same thing about adultery. Not only do we need to refrain from committing adultery, but we must also go to extreme lengths to protect our hearts from entertaining any sinful lusts. Job understood this principle, as he said, *I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin* (Job 31:1)? This has always been the intent of God’s law, that our inward thoughts and desires would be righteous, which then leads to an outward expression of love towards one another.

Jesus wants to protect us from the harsh consequences that sin brings. *Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; none who touches her will go unpunished* (Proverbs 6:27-29). As we will see in this passage, it is worthwhile to take extraordinary measures to remove this sin from our lives.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: Matthew 5:28

“But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

READ: Matthew 5:27-30



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. Where is Jesus quoting from in verse 27?
2. What damage does adultery cause? How is it similar to the damage caused by looking with lust? How is it different?
3. What should our response to sin be (vv. 29-30)?

DEEPER DISCOVERY


How is adultery viewed and handled in the Old Testament?

- Exodus 20:14
- Job 31:1, 9-12
- Proverbs 6:32
- Leviticus 20:10-16




HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. How do we know when we have crossed the line of committing adultery in our hearts?
2. What is the difference between fighting against lust using our own strength and fighting it with the power of the gospel?
3. What does Jesus' strong language about gouging out your eye and cutting off your hand tell us about the danger of hell?

 **HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. What is the practical application of verses 29-30?
2. How can we protect our eyes in the highly sexualized culture we live in?
3. How can we help one another fight against lustful desires and live with a pure heart?

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Matthew 5:28
“But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)