

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### *Introduction*

What does the God of the universe does with killers and whores? He invites them to dinner and dances with them. It is the ultimate display of grace and our understanding of that fact should be shown in the response of our gratitude.

### *Discussion*

What are the dangers of basing morality on our feelings?

### *Explanation*

What are the proper things to put our passion in to?  
What kinds of things do you lust after?  
How do your lusts fail to satisfy you?

### *Application* - Read Matthew 5:27-29

How does this verse practically apply to removing those parts of us ensnared by lust?  
What are some good intentions often buried underneath lust?

### *Mission*

How can we feed one another's desire for Jesus above anything else?

### *Homework* - Read Ephesians 5:25-33

How would you define fatherhood?

## TODAY'S VERSES

*Mark 9:47*  
*Matthew 5:21-30*  
*Romans 12:18*  
*Proverbs 12:18*  
*Proverbs 26:4*  
*Exodus 20:16*

OUR ELEMENT - Q&A / NEWS

Killers & Whores

18

Matthew 5:21-30



# SERMON

## *On The Mount*



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# IT WAS SAID

# KILLERS & WHORES

**Mark 9:47** And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell...

In today's verses in the sermon on the mount, Jesus offers some of His strongest words. Many people today are offended by the simple fact that the scriptures, at times, are unilaterally harsh in its bringing to light the actions and attitudes of those who claim to follow Jesus. The most harsh words of rebuke are always reserved for God's people and not pagan nations.

The Old Testament command not to commit adultery (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18) is often treated in Jewish sources not so much as a function of purity, but of theft: it was to steal another's wife. Jesus insisted that the seventh commandment points in another direction—toward purity that refuses to lust (Mt 5:28).

The words Jesus uses in these verses point more towards the meaning of "woman" than "wife." The sin does not just point to a man in these verses, the man, in the Greek grammar is translated "so as to get her to lust." The man is therefore looking at the woman with a view to enticing her to lust. So far as his intention goes, he is committing adultery with her and making her an adulteress. This does not weaken the force of Jesus' teaching; the heart of the matter is still lust and intent.

A mis-reading of these verses had caused some very zealous followers of Jesus to do some very zealous things (notoriously Origen who castrated himself so he would not fall prey to lust)...but that is not radical enough, since lust is not thereby removed. The "eye" (v. 29) is the member of the body most commonly blamed for leading us astray, especially in sexual sins (Prov 21:4; Ezek 6:9; 18:12; 20:8; v. 11. Eccl 11:9); the "right eye" refers to one's best eye. But why the "right hand" (Mt 5:30) in a context dealing with lust? This is probably illustrating again that lust is a kind of theft.

Cutting off or gouging out the offending part is a way of saying that Jesus' disciples must deal radically with sin. Imagination is a God-given gift; but if it is fed dirt by the eye, it will be dirty. All sin, not least sexual sin, begins with the imagination. Therefore what feeds the imagination is of maximum importance in the pursuit of living in the Kingdom of God.

Phil 4:8 reminds us: *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

Not everyone reacts the same way to all objects. But if (Mt 5:28–29) your eye is causing you to sin, gouge it out; or at very least, don't look (which what John



Stott's sane commentary on the matter suggests!) The alternative is sin and hell, sin's reward. The point is so fundamental that Jesus repeated it on numerous occasions.

The Bible is balanced and nuanced, but when it comes to "thou shalt not commit adultery," there are zero qualifications for any circumstance where it might be ok. Some things are just always wrong, adultery is one of those. The word *adultery* means sex outside of a covenant. Inherent in the idea of sex outside a covenant is the idea that it's also wrong to have sex without a covenant.

God calls us to be givers, what do you deem more important than God's call to give? That is what the most basic definition of lust would entail. Lust, when it overtakes what God calls us to, becomes an idol and our God...and makes us an adulterous.

Jesus calls us to realize that we are broken without Him. What is true of all of us is that we all struggle with lust of some sort. Underneath the lust is something that is supposed to be beautiful, it is a desire for union with the God of the universe.

Lust is NOT just a sexual thing, the root of the word lust (*Epi* means to stand on - *Thumos* passion) we were made to stand on, desire, the embrace of Jesus. It's like we are in a war of desire...will you own your desires or will they own you.

You will never know what it means to truly worship God as He is until the one that sits on His throne in your heart is hacked up a dragged away. **THE IDOL NEEDS TO GO, THE KING NEEDS TO SIT.** That starts with a mirror held up by Jesus that reminds us that we are killers and whores...yet our God is good.

What does the God of the universe does with killers and whores? He invites them to dinner and dances with them. It is the ultimate display of grace and our understanding of that fact should be shown in the response of our gratitude.

## TAPE DAY!

Today, 12:15pm after 3rd Service  
\$1 Per strip of Duct Tape or 6 for \$5!

## MEMBER INTERVIEW

For a Member Interview,  
email [info@ourelement.org](mailto:info@ourelement.org)

## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire by Jim Cymbala  
Wednesdays 9:30am, Starts 6/18

## SEE ALL UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

[ourelement.org/events](http://ourelement.org/events)

