Building An Indestructible Life

*Dealing With Lust, Honoring Marriage*

Matthew 5:27-32

*Tammy Smith*

**INTRODUCTION**

Reviewing some points from previous lessons…

* salt & light **(Matt. 5:13-18)**

- we are to be different; our light is to shine so that others see, glorify God

- are we showing our example or hiding it?

- if ashamed to be different, He will be ashamed of me **(Matt. 8:38)**

* not just murder, but hatred in the heart **(Matt. 5:21-22)**

- Jews missed the message…Jesus said motives from the heart as important as actions

- the issue was ***not*** *"Just don't take another man's life"*

- the ***real*** issue is "Don’t hate him so that you won't eventually take his life"

This lesson continues the same theme as the previous text **(Matt. 5:21-22)**

* yes, we will discuss actions that pertain to lust & protecting marriage *(present & potential)*
* but we will also discuss heart issues that can lead to actions if they are left unchecked

Understanding The Text – **Matt. 5:27-30**

* not just emphasizing "Do not commit adultery" **(v. 27; Ex. 20:14)**
* Jesus deals with looking on another with lust **(v. 28)**

- such looking makes one guilty of "adultery in the heart"

- Jesus teaches adultery doesn't really begin when one climbs into the bed

- it actually starts with the lustful look

* the Christian *must* see the heart issue *(lust)* as important as the action *(adultery)*
* Jesus also provides "preventative maintenance" so that adultery doesn't happen **(vv. 29-30)**

- if a part of the body causes one to sin, it is better to pluck it out or cut it off

- and not just remove it, but "…cast it from you"

- yes, drastic measures…but, still better than losing the whole body still intact

- APPLICATION: better to be safe…do whatever is necessary to avoid lust

- whether you are the one lusting

- or the one causing the lust *[being a stumbling block* **(Matt. 18:6-7)***]*

- truths we need to remember: men like to look; women like to be looked at

- why were we all so concerned with our appearance this morning??

Using The Text –

* pursuing what is good for yourself & others **(1 Thess. 5:15)**

- *we* have to be concerned…it's not just "he's got a dirty mind…it's his problem"

- remember…Jesus is condemning looking & lusting **(Matt. 5:28)**

- looking & lusting can lead to adultery

- Jesus also instructs on drastic measures to remove the temptation (pluck out/throw)

- much the same as Joseph fleeing Potiphar's wife **(Gen. 39:12)**

- he ran away…why wait to see what might happen??

* "pursue what is **good**" **(1 Thess. 5:15)**

- "good" = upright, honorable, acceptable to God

- "goodness" is a fruit of the Spirit **(Gal. 5:22)**

- "goodness" is a fruit of the Spirit that is acceptable to God **(Eph. 5:8-10)**

- preparing for every good work makes one a vessel of honor, useful to the Master **(2 Tim 2:21)**

- evil is overcome by good **(Rom. 12:21)**

- a good man out of good treasure of his heart brings forth good things **(Matt. 12:32)**

- we are to imitate what is good, not evil…he who does this is of God **(3 Jn. 11)**

* Since Jesus warns against the sin of looking & lusting, it seems one of the best ways to avoid this sin is thru the **clothing** we wear.

- is it possible that choice of clothing contributes to looking, sin of lust?

- our culture certainly influences (commercials, fashion trends, retail, etc.)

- but I still control what I wear

- apply **1 Thess. 5:15** to choice of clothing (upright? honorable? acceptable to God?)

- specifics to consider: will not discuss bikinis, halter tops, Daisy Duke shorts, etc. (obvious to all of us)

- what about the following "less than obvious" examples of dress?

- a dress/skirt just to the knees? (bend over, sit, pull & tug?)

- cover your legs with a sweater when sitting?

- form-fitting dresses or skirts? (risk showing panty lines)

- V-neck tops? (bend over…even if cover with the hand, is hand always free?)

- w/o foundation or enough coverage? (movement that catches the eye)

- sleeveless tops? (risk gapping, showing too much)

- tight spandex or leggings?

- other practical things to think about…

- something just to the knee…eventually you will sit down…long enough?

- what about holding a squirmy baby/toddler?

- young step-father told his step-daughter "If it can be seen, it can be touched"

* if you have to think about the clothing, a man could also be thinking about it

- especially in a way you might not like (the issue is being a "stumbling block")

- remember our text… **(Matt. 5:29-30)**

- pluck it out/cut it off and throw it from you

- is wearing something "borderline" agreeing with what Jesus said?

- is wearing something "borderline" good? honorable? acceptable to God?

- would you wear it before the Lord?

- truth is…all our clothing choices are before the Lord

- can I be salt & light in what I choose to wear? Am I different? **(Matt. 8:38)**

- or, am I causing others to look & lust?

* if our hearts strive to "…pursue what is **good**" (upright, honorable, acceptable to God), then we will do what we can to help ourselves and others **(1 Thess. 5:15)**

- there certainly will be less of a danger of causing others to lust if we keep ourselves covered appropriately

* our text's conclusion **(Matt. 5:31-32)**

- Jesus also teaches what is and is not allowed regarding divorce

- this class has focused on how to honor our marriages (present & potential)

- our world presents so much temptation, it is a daily challenge to honor marriage

- our body is a gift, not to be shared with anyone else except our spouse **(1 Cor. 7:2-4)**

- Jesus was concerned with lust (the motive) that might lead to adultery (the action)

- wouldn’t that also obviously include exposing our bodies for others to see?

- if we want our husbands (present & potential) to focus solely on us and not anyone else **(Prov. 5:15; Job 31:1)**, then we must protect our half of the marriage relationship by professing godliness **(1 Tim. 2:10)**

- as we have studied, a basic way to do this is with our appearance

- this helps honor marriage and keep it undefiled **(Heb. 13:4)**

- a godly woman also honors marriage when she does not even consider divorce as an option when problems arise

- if all these points are our focus, the sad danger of divorce is minimized

Since our culture encourages rampant lust and disrespect for the marriage relationship as God ordained it, hopefully our lesson has helped us consider the behaviors and attitudes necessary to overcome these sins.