

# Study Guide



## Matthew 5:27-30 – Lust October 1, 2017

### Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

### Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

### Word (45 Minutes)

As we look at Jesus' five discourses in Matthew, we see Matthew and the other disciples "at the feet of Jesus." These teachings are in the context of Jesus' calling and equipping the twelve apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. In our nine months of studying Jesus' five discourses of Matthew we will be sitting at the feet of Jesus learning the ins-and-outs of being disciple-makers ourselves. Our prayer is that we will be challenged to understand that we were saved in order to be disciple-makers and that we will be inspired to sit at the feet of Jesus to be equipped for our calling to be disciple-makers.

For further study on this weeks study please check out the following pages...

## Action Step

This week write out a paragraph in your own words below using your explanation of Matt 5:20 to explain the gospel to someone.

## Calendar

September 17th— [Connection Group](#)  
September 17th— Kid's Shine  
October 7th— [Parenting Conference](#)  
October 29th— [Fall Festival](#)  
November 12th— Member's Meeting

## Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

## Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[New Doxology](#)":

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Let earth and heavenly saints proclaim  
The power and might of His great Name  
Let us exalt on bended knee  
Praise God, the Holy Trinity

Praise God, praise God, praise God, Who saved my soul  
Praise God, praise God, praise God from Whom all blessings flow

Praise to the King, His throne transcends His crown  
and Kingdom never end Now and throughout eternity  
I'll praise the One Who died for me

Praise God, praise God, praise God, Who saved my soul  
Praise God, praise God, praise God from Whom all blessings flow

Praise God, praise God, praise God, Who saved my soul  
Praise God, praise God, praise God from Whom all blessings flow

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

**Commentary: Read Matthew 5:27-30**

We saw in Matthew 5:17-20 Jesus establish His ultimate authority as the One who fulfills the Scriptures and last week we started to learn how Jesus corrected the religious authorities' interpretation and application of the Scriptures. Jesus revealed the shallow interpretation of Scriptures offered by the Scribes and Pharisees who counted themselves righteous by their merely physical keeping of the laws. Jesus first started with the sixth commandment, to not murder, and now moves to focus on the seventh commandment, prohibiting against adultery. **The Scribes and Pharisees were again relaxing the commandment and limiting it to solely physical behavior. They gave a conveniently narrow definition of sexual sin and a conveniently wide definition of sexual purity. They were giving themselves a pass to lust and considered themselves righteous because they refrained from the act of adultery itself.**

However, Jesus points out that this command is not just a mere external behavior but a much deeper behavior and righteousness, which is physical purity flowing from a new heart which longs to be faithful and pure. This is the type of righteousness that surpasses that of the Scribes and Pharisees (Matt. 5:20). As we saw in Matthew 5:21-26, the prohibition of murder included the angry thought and the insulting word, so we see here that the prohibition of adultery includes the lustful look and imagination. We can commit murder with our words; we can commit adultery in our hearts or minds (Matt. 5:28). When we commit adultery in our hearts there is a direct correlation between our hearts and our eyes. If you look lustfully at someone you commit adultery in your heart, then adultery in the heart is the result of lustful eyes. This idea leads Jesus to verses 29 and 30, where he says the only way to deal with the problem is from where it begins.

The command to get rid of troublesome eyes, hands, and feet is an example of the Lord's use of figure of speech. He is not advocating for a literal physical self-maiming, but a ruthless moral self-denial. To reject our sinful practices completely so we die to them or put them to death. Summarizing verses 29 and 30, **John Stott elaborates, "If your eye causes you to sin because temptation comes to you through your eyes (objects you see), then pluck out your eyes. That is, don't look! Behave as if you had actually plucked out your eyes and flung them away, and were now blind and so could not see the objects which previously caused you to sin. Again, if your hand or foot causes you to sin, because temptation comes to you through your hands (things you do) or your feet (places you visit), then cut them off. That is, don't do it! Don't go! Behave as if you had actually cut off your hands and feet, and had flung them away, and were now crippled and so could not do the things or visit the places which previously cause you to sin."**

How do we obey this command? To obey this command will involve for many of us a certain "maiming." **We will have to eliminate from our lives things, which may be innocent in themselves, either are, or could become, sources of temptation.** What are these things in your life? Maybe certain T.V. shows, movies, books, magazines, places, websites, etc... You see, "it is better to lose one of your members than that your whole body and go to hell (Matt. 5:30)." We will need to forgo some experiences in this life in order to have life in the next. If Jesus is our standard, are we willing to sacrifice things of this world for Him? Are we living for this world or the next? Are we following the crowd or following Jesus our Savior?

## Discussion - Read Matthew 5:27-30

1. Again these verses are related to Jesus' statement in Matthew 5:20 that "unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." What do you think the Pharisees interpretation of the seventh commandment was? How did Jesus interpretation differ from the Pharisees?
2. Did the Pharisees interpretation of the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment take into account the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment about not coveting your neighbor's wife (Exodus 20:17)? How did Jesus interpretation fit in with the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment about not coveting your neighbor's wife?
3. Does Jesus say in verse 28 that lusting after a woman leads to the sin of adultery or did he say that lusting after a woman is a form of adultery?
4. What are the functions of the eye and the hand that Jesus is talking about in verses 29-30? For what purpose would you want to cut them out of your body?
5. Do you think Jesus is literally asking us to gouge out our eye or cut off our hand? By using these metaphors how is Jesus emphasizing the importance of protecting our minds and spirits from temptation in this area?
6. What are some practical, specific ways that we can "gouge out our eyes" and "cut off our hands" to fight lust and to experience sexual faithfulness and purity of heart?
7. As we consider these verses soberly, are any of us able to obey Jesus' standard fully from the heart? Does Jesus expect his followers to obey this standard of faithfulness and purity from the heart? Is it okay for Jesus' followers to disregard this standard because they are already forgiven? How do we as Christians reconcile our inability to fully obey this command with the need to follow Jesus' teachings regarding it? Please read these passages (Ezekiel 36:25-27, Romans 8:12-14, 1 John 1:9).

8. Where do you personally set up your “security fences” relating to lust? Please share with your CG members what steps you have taken or want to take to address the issue of lust in the heart?

## Action Step

**We must never forget that we have been sent by the Son of God to make disciples who make disciples.** Each week we are giving you action steps to take. Jesus has sent you out to make disciples and it begins by learning God’s Word and engaging people. **The last two weeks we worked on memorizing Matthew 5:20 and wrote out a simple explanation. This week write out a paragraph in your own words below using your explanation of Matt 5:20 to explain the gospel to someone.**

For example: If I’m talking to someone I might be able to say, “I used to think that if I was religious enough or righteousness enough I would go to heaven but then I learned what Jesus said about the most religious people of his day in Matthew 5:20. Jesus said, **“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven”**. Jesus demands perfect righteousness which none of us can achieve. Thankfully in Romans 3:22 Paul says God offers **“the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.”** I now know that the only way to enter the kingdom of heaven is to receive the righteousness of God as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ.

## Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Matthew to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased  
Young life  
Heart of hope  
First priority  
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center  
Community renewal  
Grief counseling  
Celebrate recovery  
Samaritan counseling  
Last call ministries  
Golden age ministries  
Rescue mission  
Luke's lighthouse  
FCA

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

## Walk Prayer & Missions

For further information visit  
[norrisferrychurch.org](http://norrisferrychurch.org) or contact Jared  
Clary ([clary@norrisferrychurch.org](mailto:clary@norrisferrychurch.org))

## Calendar

October— Serve Shreveport  
November— South Sudan  
March— NOLA  
June— Serve Shreveport  
July— Central America