

Study Guide: Matthew Lesson 81-The Sermon on the Mount

Sunday AM-September 13, 2026

This study guide explores the teachings of Jesus Christ regarding adultery, lust, and the importance of the heart as presented in Matthew 5:27-30. It examines the difference between outward behavior and inward righteousness, focusing on the standard of holiness that God requires of His followers.

Quiz: Reviewing the Lesson

1. What is the primary difference between how the religious leaders of Jesus Christ's time viewed sin and how He explained it in the Sermon on the Mount?
 2. According to Matthew 5:28, what specific action causes a person to commit adultery in their heart, even if they have not committed a physical act?
 3. Why does the lesson emphasize that God is more concerned with the "internal" rather than the "external" aspects of a person's life?
 4. How does the scripture from Jeremiah 17:9 describe the natural state of the human heart, and what does this mean for our ability to control it?
 5. What happened in the story of the woman caught in adultery in John 8, and what does it reveal about the power of Jesus Christ?
 6. The lesson mentions the Greek word "proto" in relation to how a person looks at someone else. What does this word signify about the intent of that look?
 7. In Matthew 5:29-30, Jesus Christ speaks about plucking out an eye or cutting off a hand. What is the main point He is making with these extreme examples?
 8. How does the pastor distinguish between being a "poser" and being a "possessor" in the context of the church?
 9. According to the teaching, what is the only way for a person's heart to be truly changed and made pure?
 10. What does the lesson mean when it describes Jesus Christ as the "new authority" or "the new sheriff in town"?
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Answer Key

1. The religious leaders focused on outward deeds and felt justified if they avoided certain bad actions. Jesus Christ showed that God looks at the heart, meaning that sinful thoughts and desires are just as significant as outward actions.
 2. Adultery is committed in the heart when a person looks at another purposefully and repeatedly with the intent to lust after them. This inward desire is considered a violation of God's standard of holiness.
 3. External actions can be faked or used to make a person look good to others, but the heart reveals who a person truly is. God examines the heart because it is the place where all thoughts, words, and deeds originate.
 4. The heart is described as "deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." This suggests that humans are powerless to change or control their own hearts without the help and intervention of Jesus Christ.
 5. The religious leaders wanted to stone the woman to test Jesus Christ, but He forgave her and told her to "go and sin no more." His forgiveness washed her clean and saved her, showing His power to grant a fresh start.
 6. The word indicates a purposeful act rather than an accidental glance. It describes someone who is looking with the specific intent or goal of lusting, showing that the sin is a choice of the heart.
 7. He is emphasizing that it is better to lose a part of the physical body than for the entire person to be cast into hell. He is calling for radical steps to avoid sin and prioritize the health of one's soul.
 8. A "poser" is someone who looks good on the outside and follows religious rules but does not have a real relationship with God. A "possessor" is someone who truly has the Holy Spirit and a transformed heart.
 9. A heart can only be changed through salvation and a relationship with Jesus Christ. This process, called regeneration, makes a person a new creature and allows the Holy Spirit to guide their life.
 10. It refers to the fact that Jesus Christ spoke with a divine authority that went beyond the traditions of the religious leaders. He corrected their narrow interpretations of the law and established the true standard for the Kingdom of Heaven.
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Essay Questions

1. Explain the "Deed, Desire, and Deliverance" framework used in this lesson. How does each stage help a believer understand the journey from recognizing sin to finding freedom in Jesus Christ?
2. Compare and contrast "legalism" (as practiced by the Pharisees) with the "purity of heart" that Jesus Christ demands. Why is a relationship with Him more effective than just following a list of rules?
3. The lesson states that "Adultery is conceived in the heart." Discuss how protecting one's thoughts and "sowing" the right things in the heart can determine a person's ultimate destiny.
4. How does the story of King David mentioned in the lesson serve as a warning about the consequences of sexual sin? Describe the impact that his choices had on his family and life.
5. Analyze the role of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life according to the text. How does the Holy Spirit help a person deal with temptation and maintain a relationship with the Father?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Adultery:** A physical or heart-based sin involving unfaithfulness to a marriage or a lustful desire for someone other than one's spouse.
- **Authority:** The power or right to give orders and make decisions; Jesus Christ demonstrated this by teaching God's truth with divine certainty.
- **Blasphemies:** Acts or words that show a lack of respect for God or holy things.
- **Convict:** The act of the Holy Spirit making a person aware of their sin and their need for repentance.
- **Deceitful:** Misleading or dishonest; the lesson uses this to describe the natural state of the human heart.
- **Defile:** To make something unclean or impure; Jesus Christ taught that what comes out of the heart is what defiles a person.
- **Holiness:** The state of being set apart for God and being pure in heart and conduct.
- **Iniquity:** Immoral or grossly unfair behavior; a term used for deep-seated sin.
- **Legalist:** Someone who strictly adheres to the literal letter of the law or religious rules while often ignoring the spirit or the heart behind them.

- **Lust:** A strong, purposeful desire for someone that is rooted in a vile or adulterous heart.
- **Manifestation:** An outward sign or evidence of something happening internally; a lustful look is a manifestation of an impure heart.
- **Passover:** A significant Jewish religious meal; the context in which Jesus Christ established the Lord's Supper.
- **Regenerated:** To be spiritually reborn or made new through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Salvation:** The act of being saved from the power and penalty of sin through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Greek Language Study

The following term was used during the teaching to provide deeper insight into the biblical text:

Greek Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Proto [¹]	<i>pro-to</i>	An infinitive form indicating "purpose"; to look with the specific goal or intent of lusting.

[¹]: This term is used in the document to describe the purposeful nature of a look that leads to sin in the heart.