

Study Guide: Matthew Lesson 82-The Sermon on the Mount

Sunday AM-September 20, 2026

This study guide explores the teachings of Jesus Christ regarding the heart, the nature of sin, and the path to true deliverance. Based on Matthew 5:29–30, the text examines why physical changes cannot fix spiritual problems and how a personal relationship with the Lord is the only way to achieve victory over temptation.

Quiz: Understanding the Lesson

1. According to the lesson, how does Jesus Christ's definition of adultery differ from a simple physical act?
 2. Why did Jesus Christ use the "right eye" and "right hand" as examples when telling people to remove things that cause them to sin?
 3. What is the main reason that physical remedies, such as self-punishment or isolation, fail to solve the problem of sin?
 4. How did the experience of St. Anthony in the Egyptian desert demonstrate the difficulty of overcoming lust through human effort alone?
 5. What does the Greek word *skandalon* refer to in the context of traps and bait?
 6. According to the teaching, why does God allow a "stumbling block" or *skandalon* to exist in a person's life?
 7. What is the difference between a "semi-victory" and the 100% victory offered by Jesus Christ?
 8. How does the lesson describe the "new heart" that Jesus Christ provides to believers?
 9. What was the central message of the poem "Beautiful Snow" regarding the loss of innocence and the hope of restoration?
 10. Why is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ considered more important than religious rituals or church attendance?
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Answer Key

1. Jesus Christ teaches that adultery is a heart issue rather than just a physical deed. He explains that the heart commits adultery through lustful desires long before any physical act might occur.
 2. In Jewish culture, the right side of the body represented a person's best and strongest parts. By mentioning these, Jesus Christ was showing that there is nothing too precious to eliminate from one's life if it stands in the way of a right heart.
 3. Physical remedies fail because sin is a heart problem, not a physical one. Even if a person removes a physical temptation or punishes their body, the lustful heart remains unchanged and will simply find new ways to sin.
 4. St. Anthony spent 35 years in the desert fasting and torturing himself to escape lust, yet he admitted that he faced the same spiritual battles the entire time. His story shows that moving to a remote place does not change the condition of the human heart.
 5. The word *skandalon* refers to a "bait stick" used in a simple animal trap. Just as bait draws a mouse to a trap, a *skandalon* is an enticement or stumbling block that draws a person into sin.
 6. The lesson suggests that everyone has a stumbling block so they will realize they cannot overcome sin on their own. This realization is meant to draw people to Jesus Christ, as they recognize their total dependence on Him.
 7. A semi-victory is a partial or temporary stop to sin, whereas 100% victory is a complete deliverance provided by Jesus Christ. He does not offer a "refurbished" heart but a completely new nature that allows for true deliverance.
 8. The new heart is not reconditioned or repaired; it is a total replacement of the "old heart of stone." This transformation allows a believer to overcome the constant battle of lust and sin through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 9. The poem describes how a person can fall from a state of purity to a life of shame and "filth in the street." However, the added verse offers hope, stating that Jesus Christ died to wash the soul and make it "whiter than snow."
 10. Rituals and church attendance mean nothing if they are not built on a personal relationship with the Lord. It is this individual connection, maintained through daily prayer and Bible reading, that truly opens the door to God.
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Essay Questions

1. Compare and contrast the concept of "physical remedies" versus "heart transformation." Why does the lesson argue that one is ineffective while the other is essential?
 2. Discuss the metaphor of the *skandalon* (the bait stick). How does this imagery help a person understand the nature of temptation and the necessity of Jesus Christ's intervention?
 3. Analyze the story of St. Anthony. What does his 35-year struggle reveal about the limitations of human discipline when dealing with spiritual issues?
 4. Explain the significance of the "Deliverance" mentioned in the outline. What must a person do to move from being a "victim of their own lust" to having victory?
 5. Reflect on the scriptural promise in Isaiah 1:18 regarding being "whiter than snow." How does this promise relate to the lesson's call for radical action against sin?
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Key Scripture References (NKJV)

- **Matthew 5:29–30:** "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell."
 - **Matthew 18:7:** "Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!"
 - **Isaiah 1:18:** "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins be like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."
 - **Revelation 3:20:** "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."
 - **Colossians 3:5:** "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."
 - **Ecclesiastes 3:11:** "He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."
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Glossary of Key Terms

- **Adultery:** In this context, it refers not only to a physical act of infidelity but also to the lustful thoughts and desires held within the heart.
- **Deliverance:** The act of being rescued or set free from the power of sin and lust through the intervention of Jesus Christ.
- **Heart of Stone:** A metaphorical description of a heart that is hardened, unresponsive to God, and controlled by sinful desires.
- **Lust:** A strong, uncontrolled desire or craving, specifically one that feeds sinful thoughts and leads to spiritual destruction.
- **Monastic Movement:** A historical movement where people (monks) joined monasteries to isolate themselves from the world, often believing they could escape sin through solitude and physical discipline.
- **Offense:** An enticement or a cause for stumbling; a trap that leads a person to commit a sin.
- **Relationship:** The individual connection between a believer and Jesus Christ, characterized by daily prayer, Bible reading, and following the Holy Spirit.
- **Repentance:** The act of turning away from sin and turning toward God with a sincere desire to change.
- **Sovereign:** Referring to God's supreme power and ultimate authority over all things, including the ability to use "miserable people" for His kingdom.

Greek Terminology and Pronunciation

- **Skandalon** [skan-dah-lon]: This term refers to the "bait stick" of a trap^[^1]. In a spiritual sense, it represents the specific temptations or stumbling blocks in a person's life that draw them away from God and into sin.

[^1]: Used in the Greek text of Matthew 5:29-30 and Matthew 18:7 to describe things that cause a person to sin or stumble.