

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Do you like snow and winter?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. How much time do you look at social media? How many images do you see on an average day? (Yes, I know it's an impossible question). Here are some stats Pastor Ruben shared:
 - Our total worldwide population is 7.7 billion.
 - Facebook was launched on February 4, 2004, by Mark Zuckerberg and his Harvard College roommates
 - There are 3.397 billion active social media users
 - On average, people have 5.54 social media accounts
 - The average daily time spent on social is 116 minutes a day (almost two hours a day!)
3. William Shakespeare is credited with saying, "The eyes are the window to your soul." What do you think this quote means? Do you agree or disagree with it?
4. Please read Matthew 5:27. Jesus was aware that these Teachers of the Law, Pharisees, and many others were committing this sin. They were fantasizing. Imagining what it would be like. They weren't acting out on it, but they were full of lust in their hearts. It's like the person who hadn't murdered someone, but anger filled their hearts.
5. What are your thoughts on Dallas Willard's quote? "Just as the thief is the person who would steal if circumstances were right, so the adulterer is the one who would have wrongful sex if the circumstances were right."
6. In Matthew 5:27, the word, "Look" means "a constant stare with the purpose of lusting". As opposed to a casual glance. It is possible for a man to glance at a beautiful woman and know that she is beautiful, but not lust after her. The word, "Lust" means, "To fix the desire upon. To have a strong desire to do or secure something. To desire greatly. To long for. To set one's heart upon. " Compare this to Matthew 6:22-23. How important is the eye? Does what you look at affect your soul, your relationship with God, your marriage, your perspective of life?

7. According to Matthew 7:21-23, what comes from a person's heart? What defiles them? What does defile mean? Compare this verse with James 1:13-15. According to Mark 12:30, what does God want from us?
8. Pastor Ruben shared four decisions we need to make to live above the lust of this world. The first was to know when to look away. Compare this with Psalm 119:37; Job 31:1-6. The second was to change your thought channel. Compare this with 2 Corinthians 10:5.
9. What suggestion does FB Meyer give us in ruling our eye? "The first step in the religious life is to detect right and wrong, not in the act, but in the thought and intention. If sin is arrested there, it is arrested in its earliest stage. When the inward senses are exercised and trained to discern good and evil, and when the soul not only discerns, but resists, there is no fear of the life being mastered by the tempter. The snake is killed in the egg; the microbe is destroyed before it can breed; the enemy is defeated before he can become ensconced (settled) within the city walls."
10. The third spiritual decision we need to make is read God's word every day. Compare this decision to Proverbs 6:20-22. Please read Proverbs 7. How does the bible describe this person in Proverbs 7? What was their first mistake?
11. The fourth decision Pastor Ruben said was you need to invite the Holy Spirit to fill you at a greater level. Please read Galatians 5:16-26.
12. What does 1 John 1:5-9, tell us we need to do if we sin? Embrace God's grace, learn from your mistakes, and grow closer to God. God loves you.

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

LOVE VS LUST

- Love gives.
- Lust takes.
- Lust focuses on self-gratification.
- Love focuses on others.
- Believe it or not...lust always runs out. Eventually, it will run out.
- Marriages and relationships that are built on lust, don't last.