



Small Group Guide: The Forgotten Jesus

"Adultery"

Icebreaker

Share one positive habit or practice that has helped you grow spiritually in the past year.

Key Scripture

Matthew 5:27-30 - "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you, anyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart..."

Main Takeaways

1. Jesus addresses the heart, not just the action

- He moves from external behavior to internal attitudes.

2. Sin begins in the mind

- All sinful actions start with sinful thoughts and desires.

3. Idolatry is the root

- Every sin traces back to worshiping something other than God.

4. Hell is real and serious

- Jesus uses strong language to show the gravity of sin.

5. Transformation requires mind renewal

- True change comes through engaging with God's Word.

6. Deal with the source, not just symptoms

- Stop the leak at its source, not where it shows up.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

- What surprised you most about Jesus' teaching on adultery in this passage? How does His definition differ from what the Pharisees believed?
- The podcast mentioned that the Pharisees kept "the letter of the law" but missed "the heart of the law." What's the difference? Can you think of modern examples?
- Why does Jesus use such extreme language (cutting off hands, gouging out eyes)? What point is He making about the seriousness of sin?

Personal Reflection

- "What do you think about when you have nothing to think about?" Take a moment of silence, then discuss: What does your answer reveal about your heart?
- The podcast stated: "Belief drives behavior." Do you agree? How have you seen this play out in your own life?
- Blaise Pascal said, "All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit in a room quietly alone by himself." Why is silence and solitude so difficult?

Going Deeper

- The podcast discussed how adultery isn't just physical intercourse but includes emotional affairs, lustful looking, and fantasy. Where do we draw the line? How do we protect our marriages?
- Origen of Alexandria castrated himself to avoid sexual temptation. Why is physical self-harm NOT what Jesus is calling for? What IS He calling for?
- "You can tell me you love the Lord, but if I watch how you act, I will tell you what you believe, what you worship, what you love." How does this challenge you? Is there a disconnect between what you say you believe and how you live?

Application

- Review the practical categories mentioned:
 - Hands - What you engage in
 - Eyes - What you watch
 - Ears - What you listen to
 - Feet - Where you go
 - Heart - What you cherish
 - Mind - What you think about
- Which area is most challenging for you? Where do you need to "stop the leak at the source"?
- The podcast mentioned several practical boundaries (gym times, accountability, Pure Flix, phone time limits, etc.). What specific boundary could you implement this week to protect your purity?
- "Information plus application equals transformation." How can you move from just reading the Bible to truly engaging with it? Have you tried the HEAR journal method?

Closing Prayer

- Purity of heart and mind
- Strength to implement boundaries
- Marriages (present and future)
- Healing for those who have been hurt by sexual sin
- The power of the Holy Spirit to transform hearts