



Disorientation: Icons and Idols: Jesus' Teaching on Adultery, Lust, and Divorce

January 18th & 19th

Speaker: Pastor Heather Zempel

Scripture: Matthew 5:27-32

Series Overview

Jesus didn't do an orientation with his disciples. It was more of a disorientation! In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is uninstalling old testament paradigms and downloading new covenant principles. In these passages, Jesus leads with the phrase, "You have heard that it was said," and follows it up with, "But I tell you."

Series Question

What is one thing the Holy Spirit revealed to you this week?

Sermon Overview

The teachings of Jesus are disorienting. Some of them are difficult to understand, and all of them are difficult to apply. Jesus points us to a Creator who designed sexuality to reflect the eternal joys and mysteries of heaven, and he teaches us to walk in relationships with one another in a way that reflects his perfect love. This message tackles the tough teachings of Jesus on adultery, lust, and divorce.

Sermon-Specific Questions

In what ways have you witnessed marriage as an icon, displaying what God is like and as a picture of God's love for his church?

What are the dynamics of singleness or marriage in your life at this moment? What has been your experience personally and within your circle?

How are you currently cultivating a spiritual family? What step might help to do so?

Are there any areas of your life where the serpent might be whispering to you, "Did God really say ...?" and planting seeds of distrust just as he did with Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1)?

Read one of the scriptures that Heather encouraged us to dive deeper into (Exodus 32, Isaiah 57:7-8, Hosea 4:12-14, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:5, Colossians 3:5, Revelation 2:14, 20, 21:25). How does the passage connect adultery and idolatry together?

In our culture today, how do we reflect Jesus' stance towards protecting women?

Practical Application

"All affairs begin with a misunderstanding or misalignment of what God feels for us," said Pastor Jenni. What truth about how God feels about you do you need to cling to this week? Commit to memory a verse from Scripture that communicates the truth you need help believing.

After listening to Pastor Heather's message, how might you "gauge out your eye and cut off your hand"?

1. **Confess:** As you read Matthew 5:27-32, are there any aspects of your story that come to mind? Share with someone you trust.
2. **Sabotage Yourself:** What practical boundaries do you need to set to make sure you don't end up in compromising situations?
3. **Take an Inventory:** Reflect on your answers to the following questions...

In what areas of my life am I not completely trusting God to provide for my needs and desires? In what areas do I believe God has failed me?

How well is my marriage showing others what God's love is like?

Am I comparing my spouse to someone else and wishing they were more like them?

In what ways am I allowing God to use my singleness to participate more fully in his story?

What do I need to stop doing, stop watching, stop listening to, stop going to in order to guard my heart?

What do I need to start doing to orient my heart to reflect God's faithfulness?

Further Resources:

[Praying Circles Around Your Marriage](#) (Joel and Nina Schmidgall)

[The Meaning of Marriage](#) (Tim Keller)

[Beyond Ordinary](#) (Justin and Trisha Davis)

[Healing Your Marriage When Trust is Broken](#) (Cindy Beall)

[BEMA Podcast](#)

[Marriage Matters Date Night Event](#) – Friday, February 7th, 2020 at 6:30pm

[Small Groups:](#) DivorceCare, Prepare/Enrich, Marriage, and Parenting Groups