



THE UPSIDE DOWN kingdom

Lust – 7/7/19

OVERVIEW

Tough topics can clear a room or divide it. Topics like anger and lust are such hard topics because all of us deal with them on some level. It's all about perspective, right? No, there are clear lines between right and wrong; God-drawn lines. He gives direction, and practical steps to live His way in The Upside Down Kingdom.

Scriptures (NIV unless noted): 1 Timothy 5:11; Matthew 5:27-30; Matthew 12:43-45 (NLT)

APPLICATION

1. After hearing the statistics about sexual behaviors like pornography and premarital sex, do you think there is a lust problem in our culture? Do these numbers surprise you? Why or why not?
2. Jeremy explained that Jesus' solution to sin is to "Cut it off...Gouge it out." Do you think that this approach is too extreme or not extreme enough?
3. In Matthew 5:27-28, Jesus clearly states that sinful behavior is wrong, but the heart reality can also be sinful. According to statistics, millions of Americans have committed adultery in their hearts, and you might be one of those millions. Where does lust have its grip on your life?
4. Matthew 12:43-45 describes a scenario where an evil spirit leaves a person and when it comes back, the spirit finds that same body empty and more evil enters the person. What might be missing in the empty person who leaves room for evil? What is missing in you?
5. What is your plan to introduce a spiritual discipline this week to address your lust (solitude, fasting, prayer, meditation, or community)?

HOMEWORK: We all have things we need to cut out or gouge out. Find somebody to share your struggle with that can help support you, then set a reminder on your phone for two months and ask yourself the question, "Has there been progress in my struggle with _____?" Thank God for the work He's done, or ask Him for guidance to what should be done differently. Then set another reminder in the future to keep track of your progress.

