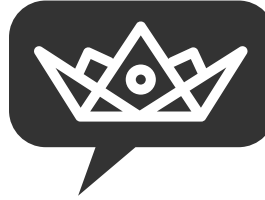


**THE GOSPEL OF  
THE KINGDOM**



**A SERIES ON  
MATTHEW 1-7**

# **It Starts in Your Heart**

**Matthew 5:27-30**

**Sermon Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Prayer Requests:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

1. What insight, principle, or observation from the message did you find most helpful, most challenging, or most troubling? Please explain.
2. Can you remember a sermon or devotional you heard on this passage before? What was the conclusion, and what affect did it have on your life?
3. Do you think that obeying this passage is harder for us today than it was for Jesus' contemporaries? Why or why not?
4. Read Ephesians 2:1-3, James 1:14-15, James 4:1-4, and 1 John 2:15-17. Note any observations or key thoughts.
  - a. The word translated as "passion" in the first passage and "desire" in last three all come from the same Greek word as "lust."
  - b. Are these passages talking about more than just sexual desire? If so, what other kinds of lusts are being described here?
  - c. What are the connections, as seen in these passages, between lust and sin?
  - d. What can we learn from these passages about successfully battling sin?
5. Read Colossians 3:5-8. Note any observations or key thoughts.
  - a. What might change in your behaviour or life if you understood that sin was something to "put to death" and "put away" instead of "put up with"?
  - b. Recall a time when, with God's help, you experienced victory over a particular sin. What were the steps or means that, with God's help, were effective?
  - c. Is there a sin in your life that you need to get vicious with by putting it to death? What would that actually look like?
6. Recall the three application points from Sunday's message (disciples of Jesus recognize their need for atonement, disciples of Jesus recognize their need for a new heart, and disciples of Jesus take their sin dead seriously).
  - a. Which of these three impacted you the most?
  - b. If it was one of the first two, what will it look like to put this into practice?
7. Did you experience conviction of sin on Sunday? Should this experience be discouraging, or encouraging? (John 16:7-8, 2 Corinthians 7:8-10).