

out our eyes if we lust, or, as one early church father said, soon we'd all be blind. I believe Jesus was teaching: Minimize the opportunity. For example, if the internet or cable TV is causing an addiction to lust for you, stop the service, or get a content filter; this is "plucking out the eye" in your circumstance. What practical steps you have taken or you need to take to avoid the trap of lust?

Ask God to help you stay pure from the inside out!

Thursday

Please read Matthew 5:38-42 & 1 Peter 2:20-23. Why do you think movies about retaliation and vengeance are so popular? What are the drawbacks of an "eye for eye" mentality? How did Jesus say we should respond to those who do evil to us? How can doing this change a bad situation? Why is this difficult?

Ask God to show you if there's a grudge or personal vendetta that you need to let go of. Ask him for the strength to show kindness to those who are cruel or rude to you this week!

Friday

Please read Matthew 5:43-48 and 1 John 4:11. How does God treat good and evil people the same way? What two specific things does Jesus say we need to do for our enemies? How can praying for an enemy help you to forgive and care for that enemy?

Pray for some specific "enemies" today—people who seem to hate you; those opposing you at work; those who use violence and oppression here and abroad, etc. Ask God to bless them in some specific way.

Saturday

Please read Matthew 5:33-37 to prepare yourself for Sunday's message.

Ask God to soften your heart and make you receptive to his truth and his people. Pray that you will worship God with your entire being—heart, soul, mind, and strength. Pray that both services will be pleasing offerings of worship to our great God.

The King's Speech

Message by Rick McRostie on Sunday, February 12, 2017

On Relationships

To have the kind of relationships that reflect Jesus' kingdom, I will be a...

1. Peace

(Matthew 5:21-26; 38-42)

"You have heard that it was said... 'Do not murder'... But I tell you, that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment..." Matthew 5:21

• Speak

"Anyone who says to his brother 'Raca' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell." Matthew 5:21b-22

• Settle

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother... Settle matters quickly with your adversary..." Matthew 5:23-25a

• Stop

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." Matthew 5:38-39

2. Promise

(Matthew 5:27-32)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Matthew 5:27-28



First Covenant Church of Eureka
2526 J Street Eureka, CA 95501
707-442-6774
Church email: fceureka@sbcglobal.net
Pastor Rick's email: rickm@fceureka.org
Church Web Site: www.fceureka.org

Sow a _____, reap an _____;
Sow an _____, reap a _____;
Sow a _____, reap a _____;
Sow a _____, reap a _____!

“It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.” Matthew 5:31-32

3. Plain _____

(Matthew 5:33-37)

“Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’, and your ‘No’, ‘No’.”

Matthew 5:37a

More on this passage on next Sunday.

4. People _____

(Matthew 5:43-47)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” Matthew 5:43-45

The Bottom Line:

Be an agent of _____

“But you must always act like your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:48 (CEV)

Daily Meditations

Take some time each day to read the suggested passage, pray, and answer the questions pertaining to this week’s topic.

This week’s memory verse:

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:43-45a

Monday

Please read Matthew 5:21-22 & Ephesians 4:29. The Pharisees felt they were righteous as long as they didn’t murder. But Jesus gets to the intent of that commandment: Loving one another. Why did Jesus zero in on the emotions behind our violent actions? What modern equivalents to “Raca” or “fool” do you ever get tempted to use? How is anger and name-calling like murder? When do you tend to get angry at people?

Ask the Lord for strength in overcoming anger and name-calling.

Ask him to help you control your emotions.

Tuesday

Please read Matthew 5:23-26 & Colossians 3:12-17. If a person becomes aware of a relational problem, how quickly should he or she act, according to Jesus? Why? Why is it worth even interrupting worship to deal with something like this? Why is it better for followers of Jesus to resolve their differences privately before they become public? Is there a situation like this that you need to resolve? What is it? What specific steps will you take to be a peacemaker this week?

Ask God for the strength to resolve any such issues today!

Wednesday

Please read Matthew 5:27-30, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, and 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8. What similar themes are found in each of these passages? Why are there so many warnings about sexual immorality? Also read Ezekiel 20:30. In this passage the prophet condemns pornographic images—in his day, pictures or statues. Why does Ezekiel condemn those who “lust after them”? In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus did not mean for us to literally pluck