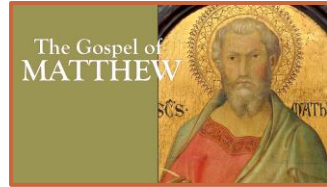


# “But I Say to You”

Matthew 5:27–37

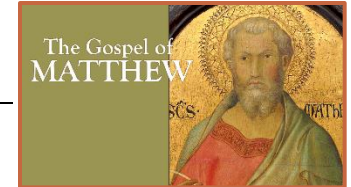
Emily Mitchell  
February 23, 2025



# “But I Say to You”

Matthew 5:27–37

Suggested Questions for Individual  
Study or Group Discussion\*



## NOTES

- *Reread Matthew 5:27–30.* How is Jesus’ teaching challenging? How is Jesus’ teaching grace-filled and pragmatic? Have you found in your own experience that it’s better to cut off the app/habit/relationship that’s harming you rather than continue to be perpetually harmed?
- *Reread Matthew 5:31–37.* N.T. Wright comments, “It may be stating the obvious to point out that if people knew how to control their bodily lusts on the one hand (verse 27–30) and were committed to complete integrity and truth-telling on the other (verses 33–37), there would be fewer, if any, divorces.” Have you observed how lust and lies have been allowed to grow up like weeds and choked a marriage? Why are the disciplines of avoiding lustful imagination and telling the truth (to yourself and to your spouse) so vitally important to the health of our relationships?
- When is it most challenging in your current context to treat people as people? (In contrast to seeing people lustfully [with the attitude, “you are here for my pleasure”] or seeing people transactionally [with the attitude, “everyone is out to use each other” or “white lies are okay if they make my life easier and get me what I want”].)
- Jesus is more demanding than the law (“you have heard that it was said...But I say to you”). All of us will fall short and we will sin – the law will not save us. Jesus will. And Jesus wants to save us from a lot of harm and heartbreak by getting to the heart of the issue of integrity in our minds and our speech. What does it look like and feel like to say, “As followers of Jesus, we get to live differently” as opposed to “as followers of Jesus, we have to live differently”?