

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

ELEVATE YOUR CHARACTER

Character Starts in the Heart
Matthew 5:27-32

Big Idea: God will not elevate me any higher than the sin I allow to rule over me

1. Jesus calls me out of _____ lust (v27-30).

2. Jesus calls me into _____ love (v31-32).

Download 'Character Starts in the Heart' by Jim Botts (10/01/23) free, or share it via email, Facebook, or Twitter at hcbc.com/media.

MY APPLICATION

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or small group.

1. It is easier to manage appearances than live from the heart. Why do you think Jesus wants full access to our hearts? Have you granted that?
2. Ours is an over-sexualized society. Do you agree? From v29-30, what actions does Jesus tell us to take regarding lust? How is that going for you?
3. The desires you feed will always grow. How might that play out regarding lust (see James 1:13-15)? How might that play out regarding the things of God?
4. Jesus calls out the issue of divorce and sexual immorality. How were these two linked? What was God's original design Jesus is drawing from (see Mark 10:5-9)?
5. Jesus brings forgiveness and transformation when we surrender our desires to God's. Take some time in prayer to do that right now.

Memory Verse

“If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.”

Matthew 5:29, ESV