



A REAL HEART

Matthew 5:21-32

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1. What insight, principle, or observation from this message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
2. When it comes to how people judge their own actions, do you think that most people are too easy or too hard on themselves? Why or why not?
3. In verses 21 to 23, what is the comparison Jesus makes?
4. How serious are the consequences for our illegitimate anger?
5. Why? Put another way... What might the consequences be for you and those around you if you are acting out with illegitimate anger?
6. In verses 23 to 26, how does Jesus tell us to respond instead of anger?
7. Who does the responsibility for our response rest upon?
8. Why? Put another way... What might the consequences be for you and those around you if you respond as Jesus teaches?
9. In verses 27 to 30, what is the comparison Jesus makes?

10. How serious are the consequences of yielding to the temptations of lust?
11. How does Jesus teach us to respond to lust?
12. What does Jesus mean by this? (Is He really asking us to cut off actual body parts?)
13. Why are we to respond this way? Or, put another way... What might the consequences be for you and those around you if you respond as Jesus teaches?
14. In verses 31 and 32, what is Jesus' point about divorce and adultery?
15. Does Jesus' point about divorce and adultery relate to His teaching in verses 27 to 30? If so, how?
16. According to Jesus, in Matthew 19:3-12, what was the reason divorce was permitted?
17. Thinking through all the reasons that people give for divorce, do you think Jesus, Matthew 19:3-12, is on target with the bottom line reason? Why or why not?
18. What actions might one take to avoid "hardening of the heart" in marriage?
19. It's been said that, "*Actions speak louder than words.*" In Jesus' teaching He is using our actions to point to the unspoken issues of our hearts. While we may be tempted to be too easy or too hard on ourselves, God is very blunt (and honest) with us. Thinking through what Jesus teaches in these verses, if you had to pick just one insight or principle from this study that speaks to the condition of your heart, what would it be? Why? How do you plan to respond to it?