

Leader Guide Simple Gospel

Fall 2025 | Week 6

Message Date 10/19/2025

THE GOAL

It's hard to believe we're already in Week 6 of our study through Jesus' words in Matthew! Only two more weeks remain, but God continues to do powerful things in our hearts through this journey. This week, Jesus challenges us to look deeper—not just at what we do, but at what we desire. His words about lust and purity remind us that the heart is the wellspring of life, and it must be guarded carefully. The goal this week is to understand that Jesus wants to free us from the inside out. Purity isn't about restriction; it's about restoration—protecting our hearts so we can live with joy, integrity, and closeness to God.

MY STORY

- 1) If you could swap eyesight with any animal for a day (eagle, chameleon, cat, etc.), which would you pick and why?
- 2) If you had to create a new national holiday based on something ridiculous you love, what would it celebrate and how would people observe it?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 5:27–30 (NLT)

27 "You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' 28 But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."

4) What is Jesus really saying about sin and lust here?

Jesus is teaching that sin begins in the heart, not the act itself. He uses hyperbole—extreme imagery—to drive home the seriousness of dealing with sin early. He's saying: do whatever it takes to guard your heart and mind.

James 1:13–15 (NLT)

13 “And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, ‘God is tempting me.’ God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. 14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.”

5) How does James' description of temptation deepen our understanding of what Jesus said?

James explains the process—temptation starts with desire, then leads to sin, then to destruction. Jesus was warning us to stop sin at the desire stage before it grows.

6) According to both Jesus and James, why is addressing sin early so important?

Because sin rarely begins full-grown. Small compromises lead to big consequences. Early repentance preserves freedom and peace. It's about guarding our hearts.

7) How do you see the Holy Spirit's role in helping us walk out purity and renewal?

The Spirit empowers us to do what our flesh cannot. He convicts, strengthens, and renews our hearts daily when we yield to Him.

8) How can pursuing purity lead to greater joy and freedom in your relationship with God?

Purity isn't about restriction—it's about restoration. When our hearts are aligned with God's, we experience peace, joy, and the freedom of walking closely with Him. Our desires change.

Colossians 3:1–10 (NLT)

1 “Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. 5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. 6 Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. 7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. 8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. 10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.”

9) What do you notice about Paul's emphasis on what we set our minds on?

Paul connects our focus to our transformation. When our thoughts are shaped by heaven's reality, we live differently on earth.

10) What practical steps can help you 'put to death' what Paul describes in verse 5? It involves setting boundaries, renewing our minds through Scripture, and choosing accountability. Holiness requires both surrender and intentional effort. What else?

11) What does Paul's command to "put on your new nature" in Colossians 3:10 practically look like in your daily life? It looks like intentionally aligning your choices with who God says you are—speaking truth, practicing forgiveness, setting your mind on eternal things, and walking in gratitude and humility.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

1. What area of your heart or mind do you need to surrender to God for cleansing?
2. What practical step will you take this week to guard your eyes and thoughts?
3. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to renew your heart and restore purity of mind.