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Radical Resistance Matthew 5:27-30

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ **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.** ³⁰ **And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell**” - Matthew 5:27-30

Fight Your Sin...

1) From Higher _____

“¹If then you have been raised with Christ...³ For **you have died**, and your life is hidden with Christ in God...⁵ **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry...” - Colossians 3:1-10

“⁶We know that our **old self was crucified with him** in order **that the body of sin might be brought to nothing**, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin...¹¹ So you also must **consider yourselves dead to sin** and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body**, to make you obey its passions...” - Romans 6:6-14

2) With Better _____

“²⁸...everyone who looks at a woman with **lustful intent** has already committed adultery with her **in his heart**. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out...” - Matthew 5:27-29

“²³Above all else, **guard your heart**, for everything you do flows from it.” - Proverbs 4:23

3) For Greater _____

“²⁹...For **it is better** that you lose...” - Matthew 5:29

“²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God **than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin**. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ **greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt**, for he **was looking to the reward**.” - Hebrews 11:24-26

4) With Sharper _____

"²⁹...cut it off..." - Matthew 5:29

"¹⁷...the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God." - Ephesians 6:17

"¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, **but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body**, you will live." - Romans 8:12-13

Radical Resistance Small Group Study Guide | Matthew 5:27–30

Big Idea: Because Jesus has defeated sin for us, we can fight it from forgiveness, address its roots in our hearts, pursue greater joy, and depend on God's Word and Spirit.

Getting Started

Share an example of giving up something you enjoyed to get something you valued more. What made the sacrifice worthwhile?

Digging Deeper (*Read Matthew 5:27–30*)

Fight from _____ Ground

1. Jesus uses startling language about removing an eye or a hand. How does verse 28 help us understand why he is calling for decisive action against sin rather than literal bodily harm? What does his warning reveal about the seriousness of sin?
2. Read **Colossians 3:1-10** & **Romans 6:6–14**. The message distinguishes between fighting **for forgiveness** and fighting **from forgiveness**. What is the difference? How can Christ's victory encourage someone who feels defeated by repeated failure?

Fight with a Better _____

3. In Matthew 5:27–28, how does Jesus move the discussion from outward behavior to inward desire? What is the difference between noticing someone's attractiveness and looking with lustful intent?

4. Read **James 4:1–3**. How can conflict with another person reveal desires ruling our own hearts? What might we discover by asking, “What am I wanting so much that I am willing to sin to get it?”
5. The message emphasizes both changing our environment and addressing our hearts. Why do we need both? Choose an example—anger, lust, envy, or greed—and discuss what an outward boundary and an inward change might look like.

Fight for a Greater _____

6. Read **Hebrews 11:24–26**. What did Moses give up, and what did he consider more valuable? How did looking toward the reward shape his choices?
7. Sin often promises satisfaction, relief, or control. Choose one common temptation: What does it promise, what does it actually cost, and what greater good does God offer? How can we keep that greater good in view when temptation feels immediate?

Fight with a Sharper _____

8. Read **Ephesians 6:17–18** and **Romans 8:12–13**. What do these passages teach about the roles of Scripture, prayer, and the Holy Spirit in fighting sin? How is this different from relying on determination alone?
9. Read **Hebrews 13:5–6**. How does God’s promise, “I will never leave you nor forsake you,” address the fear beneath discontentment? What would it look like to use this promise during an actual moment of temptation?
10. Identify one area where you need to stop making peace with sin. You may reflect privately or share as appropriate. What specific step will you take this week, what Scripture will you use, and who could encourage you to follow through?

Close in Prayer

Thank Jesus for his forgiveness and victory over sin. Ask the Holy Spirit to expose the desires beneath sinful habits, deepen your joy in Christ, and help you act on God’s Word. Pray for courage to take concrete steps and humility to receive help from one another.