

**A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study**  
**Date: November 14, 2021**  
**Matthew 5:27-32**

1. What is happening all around this text in Matthew chapter 5?
  - a. I don't know, we just jumped into the middle of this!
  - b. Well, I read the Beatitudes at the beginning of the chapter.
  - c. This is commonly called the "Sermon on the Mount" and Jesus is giving a lot of valuable instruction.
  - d. In the immediate surroundings of this passage, Jesus is addressing several issues of the law (like Thou shall not murder) and suggesting that there is a sin of the heart that can happen before the action is taken (or even when the action is not taken).
  
2. What is the command or law that Jesus is addressing in 5:27 (See also Exodus 20:14)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What does Jesus tell his listeners (or readers) in 5:28? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Why do you think that Jesus said this, given what we have already learned in our Love & Marriage series?
  - a. Because when we dwell on a thought like this and allow it to remain, we are choosing to dwell on our own pleasure even at the expense of someone we have committed ourselves to. This is not love, it is lust.
  - b. Because sexual sin is committed against your own body...the damage can be done in our hearts and minds even before we commit the act (1 Corinthians 6:18).
  - c. Well maybe it doesn't just have to do with this subject. When we combine this with the text before this about murder, it seems to suggest that God cares as much (or more) about the attitude of our hearts than he does about our actions. The attitude of our hearts is often the root of our actions.
  
5. Do you think this only applies to men? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If not, why did he say it this way?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
6. How are we to handle verses 31-32 (see also Deuteronomy 24:1 and Mark 10:1-12)??
  - a. Well, I think it is safe to say that God does not like divorce and God is not so quick to dissolve relationships and pretend they never existed, since Jesus still calls it adultery after the divorce has happened.
  - b. Well, Deuteronomy 24 and Mark 10 seem to suggest that there was already some confusion about what was "allowed" even at the time of Christ. The law allowed for divorce and Pharisees were trying to figure out where to draw the line (or test Jesus to see if he knew).
  - c. Well, while we're trying to figure out where to draw the line (like the Pharisees before us in Mark), Jesus points to the issue of the heart that gets us to the point of needing to ask the question. This actually fits with the text surrounding our text in Matthew 5. Jesus points out in Mark 10 why we would try to come up with a situation where divorce is ok...that our hearts are hard. So, then, it appears we could even follow the law of Moses and what he permitted but still have a heart that is far from the desire that God has for our lives. How badly do you need to find out where to draw the line?
  - d. Well, many times we look at these verses, people have already been divorced and trying to figure out what that means about their future (i.e. whether they can get married again). At this point, they are often trying to balance this text with the instructions of Paul that we studied in 1 Corinthians 7:2. This Matthew text really seems to be trying to stop the divorce to begin with and pointing out that the damage was done at that point.