

## Small Group/Sermon Notes for The Greatest Sermon Ever: Part 3

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **Part 3: Be True and Be Truthful**
- Jesus deals with various specifics that mirror some of the 10 Commandments.
- Today we cover Jesus' fulfillment of "Do Not Commit Adultery," and "Do Not Lie."
- Jesus raises the bar on adultery. **Matthew 5:27-32.**
  - **V27-28.** Have you heard "You can look, but you can't touch?"
    - No adultery in behavior and no adultery in your mind either!
      - Does your spouse have to be perfect for you to obey this command? He/she isn't going to be! This is a heart discipline and one of the ways of God.
      - But God does have the same standards for your spouse too!
  - **V29-30.** Jesus must be serious if he brings up "hell" twice!!!
    - Now, don't gouge out your eye, but get some security on your devices! What else?
      - Do what it takes to avoid doing wrong while you are getting your heart right!
  - **V31-32.** Jesus transitions from adultery to divorce. Hmm.
    - Jesus is questioned on this topic in **Matthew 19:3-9.**
      - "Moses permitted you to divorce..." is very interesting.
    - God's plan from the beginning was lifelong marriage.
      - Living together without getting married doesn't get you off the hook on this.
      - Why does God make rules? (Because He loves you and is trying to help.)
    - Divorce hurts people. God doesn't like that.
      - The answer isn't just sticking with a terrible marriage.
      - God's Plan A is for us to have great marriages! What if?
    - When it's complicated...honor the relationship you are in.
      - The Good News is that you can go forward from here.
- Jesus raises the bar on "don't lie." **Matthew 5:33-37.**
  - We serve a God of truth.
    - In Jesus day the religious culture had a way of bending the truth. Jesus was not ok with that. **Matthew 23:16-22.**
    - I think there are Christians today who have resigned themselves to being liars. It just doesn't work that way. Do you wonder why you are not blessed in what you do?
  - What are some reasons that people say things?
    - It is what they want to hear. It will get me out of trouble. Etc.
    - But, for the Christian, what you say must be straightforwardly true.
      - **John 8:43-44.** Don't speak Satan's language.
  - It is possible to not lie. But you must put yourself in a position where you don't rely on lies.
    - Why does God make rules?
- Jesus expects us to actually do this, not simply know we should and just rely on grace.
  - We are going to need some help.
  - Closing Scripture, **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** (Focus on v11.)
    - The Good News is that your past does not own you.
    - Your past does not define you.
    - Your past does not direct your future when you are in Christ.
  - You were washed, sanctified, and justified.
    - If you need some of this, now is the time.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!