**Small Group Material - Matthew 5. 27-32**

**Thy will be done - Lust and Marriage**

**Welcome**

* *The sexualisation of our culture with porn accessed through the internet.* By the age of 15, the average child will have seen over 9000 actual or suggested acts of sexual intercourse.
* *Students.* At a Fresher’s fair one leaflet handed out said, ‘Enough of this moralising, sleep with who you want, when you want, but do it carefully.’
* *Marriage and family life.* The divorce rate in this country is now running at over 161,000pa with over 50% of marriages ending in divorce. The UK is the divorce capital of Europe second only to the USA. Financial cost off divorce to the British economy has been put at £2bn pa (not to mention the trauma and emotional pain)
* Huge rise in *sexually transmitted disease*.

How do you react to these figures?

**Worship** Choose one of Jesus’ titles or names and say what it means to you.

Sing ‘All my days’: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTBJlzNvVTE>

**Word Read Matthew 5.27-32**

**A v27-28** How does Jesus link lust and adultery?

What inner attitude is Jesus stressing?

**B v29-30**

What is Jesus’ point in using such exaggerated language?

How could you apply verses 29 & 30 in your life?

Since all of us experience something of anger, lust, selfishness, hate, revenge etc, what is Jesus saying to us here?

**C v31-32**

Some rabbis allowed divorce for any reason if a husband wanted it. What was their casual attitude towards divorce promoting?

How were they misusing Moses’ allowance for divorce? (see Deut 24.1-4)

What inner (and outer) qualities is Jesus seeking instead?

With divorce such a huge issue in today’s society, how does Jesus’ teaching here help us? What can we do to support those who are married as well as those who have gone through divorce?

**Witness**

**A) Marriage**

Pray for the St Mary’s Marriage Course

Pray for marriages in the church, in society, in Chipping Norton.

Pray for all those working to save marriages and protect them (Relate etc)

Pray for marriages which are struggling & those who struggle with singleness

Pray for those who have gone through the pain of divorce

**B) The Mission**

Pray for the mission events and discuss how you will be involved (as a group or individually). Have you had a social? We’ve found it much easier to invite friends to something after they have been to a purely social event.