

# Growth Group Questions

*Epiphany 6, February 12, 2023*

## Introduction

We return to our focus on the Savior's Sermon on the Mount this week. In the first week we heard his statements of blessings in the beatitudes. Last week we heard in the Gospel lesson that we are salt and light to the world. This week he teaches his disciples that holy living means purity in thought as well as deed.

## Into the Word – 2 Samuel 11:1-17, 26-27

1. Most of us would be familiar with at least the basics of the account of King David and Bathsheba. In catechism just last week we found that David breaks all 10 Commandments in this one sad event. As a group find the broken commands.
  - The 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> are easier to identify. Start with those.
    - 5<sup>th</sup>
    - 6<sup>th</sup>
    - 7<sup>th</sup>
    - 8<sup>th</sup>
    - 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>
  - Remembering David's position as anointed King of Israel will help you get the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>.
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> (Toughest to identify but consider how long David despised God's call to repentance)
    - 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Whenever we break Commandments 2-10 we are also breaking the 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment. How is that so?
2. The account of David's repentance is in 2 Samuel 12:13-25. There were consequences of David's sin, but forgiveness

ruled. Read it and enjoy God's grace to David, and know that grace is for you as well.

3. God used David's sin for his purpose. (Bathsheba is an ancestor of Christ.) Come up with two other Biblical examples of this and one from your own life.

## Into the Word – Matthew 5:21-30

1. Holy Christian living begins with the heart, not the hands. Why MUST it start there?
2. Jesus calls us to holy living with our brothers (anger), our enemies (court), and our bodies (lust) here. He continues after these verses with our spouses (divorce certificate) and God himself (oaths). Which relationship(s) does American society make most difficult?
3. James 1:14-15 gives the "life cycle" of sin. What do sinful desires grow up to become. And what is the result of that growth?
4. Jesus obviously doesn't want us to mutilate the bodies he gives us as temples of the Holy Spirit. What is his simple point in talking about gouging out eyes and cutting off hands?

## Closing Prayer

Mighty God, you bless us every day in grace without ending. Help us to see the depth of your forgiveness as we remember our sinful hearts, and lead us to lives of service and holiness. Restore the fallen, encourage the weak, and embolden the faithful. In Jesus, Amen.