Influenced

Week Two: You’ve gone incognito.

Mike Colaw

Production Notes:

* Green highlighted text goes on the screen.
* The underlined words can be the fill in the blank for the handout.

Introduction

Starting in two weeks – Discover the Bible 4-week class: learn how to study and understand the Word of God. More info and registration on website.

I also want to invite you to join me online! I have been using Facebook to unpack ideas, post thoughts and try to seed the external world with the hope and love of Christ. Go to Facebook and look for Mike Leslie Colaw.

We are in week number 2 of “Influenced,” a practical examination of the phrase Jesus used multiple times, “You heard it said, but I say to you…”

Week 1: That’s toxic. We are here to help detox the world. It all begins with rightly ordered identity. God created the world good. Good literally means things being as God designed them to be. Sinful toxicity is creation dissonant with it’s created identity.

Week 2: You’ve gone incognito. Sin begins in the heart. What you do in the dark reveals what’s in your heart.

Illustration:

Imagine I could bring you on stage and put up on the big screen the last 20 websites you visited after you put your web browser in incognito mode. When there is little external pressure to act a certain way, what comes out from your heart to your hands?

Whose profile do you look up when no one is looking? Why do you look them up?

How do you spend your money when you think no one will know about it?

What do you say about people when you think its “safe” to reveal what’s really in your heart?

Lectio:

Matthew 5:27–30 (ESV)

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.”

Meditatio:‬‬

1. Law and fulfillment: In Matthew 5:17, Jesus states, “…I have not come to abolish (the OT laws) … but to fulfill them.” Jesus’ teachings were not meant to negate the existing Jewish laws but to complete or perfect their purpose by demonstrating their true intent and spirit. Real purity isn’t merely about not acting morally wrong but growing a healthy heart.
2. God sees the heart’s intent: The teaching about “lustful intent” in Matthew 5:28 emphasizes the idea that it is possible to have a heart full of sin without having physical access to the object of sinful desire. This underscores the notion that internal motivations are as critical as external actions in the moral evaluations of one’s behavior.
3. Metaphors of eye and hand: Matthew 5:29-30 discusses the “right eye” and “right hand.” A common theological perspective on this is the idea that the “right” eye and “right” hand are the intent to see and act. It’s also to plan and scheme a way to get something. The “right hand” of a king was a term used for many centuries to describe the person who would advise and act on behalf of a king. Even in the New Testament Jesus sits “on the right hand of God.” Hebrews 12:2
4. Deal with what you do and want to do in the dark. To remove the right hand or right eye would be a removal of the wrong body part in the sexual example Jesus uses. The term means to remove things that influence your heart to want to act wrongly.
   1. Jesus wants us to remove from our lives any intent to act or strong influence that is poisoning our hearts. This might be going from a smart phone to a dumb phone. It might mean breaking off a relationship that you aren’t strong enough to honor God in. It might mean getting into an accountability group. It might mean going to Christian counseling.
5. Jesus cares a lot about the intent of your heart. This is bigger than just sexuality. Jesus wants you to be heart aware and deal with what influences your heart. It’s about working on the posture of your heart.

Illustration:

There you are. Standing before God. He knows what you want when you go incognito to the rest of the world. He has laid out before you not only your actions but the intentions of your heart. He knows what would happen to the world around you if he actually gave you the power to act uninhibited. Listen to the words of John.

John‬

Again.

Sin begins in the heart. What you do in the dark reveals what’s in your heart.

Oratio: Pull out the Next Steps cards as we pray together.

* Ask that God would reveal the truth about your heart to you.
* Ask God to increase your love of Him above all other gods.

Contemplatio: Write on the Next Steps cards.

* What is God speaking into your heart?

Actio:

* What action is He calling you to make?