

Kingdom Citizens –The Sermon on the Mount-Lesson 7

Women of Grace|GraceLife Church

“Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.’ But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING. Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil. --Matthew 5:33-37

Day 1—Verse 33

“Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.’ --Matthew 5:33

1. Matthew 5:21-26 deal with anger and murder, 5:27-32 deal with adultery, lust, and divorce. What is the focus of verses 33-37?
2. Where in the Old Testament do we find teaching on the making of oaths?
3. What is an oath (it can also be called a vow or something that you swear by)?

7. Are there any valid reasons to go back on your word?

Day 2—Verse 34-36

But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING. Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. --Matthew 5:34-36

1. What do the following verses tell us about oaths?
 - a. Luke 1:72-75
 - b. Acts 2:29-31
 - c. Hebrews 6:13-18
2. From the verses in question 1, would it seem that Jesus is contradicting Himself in this verse? What is He saying? What is Jesus condemning in this verse?

3. The Religious Leaders only kept oaths that were sworn by God's name. From this verse, what kinds of oaths did they make to wiggle out of their commitments?
 - a. How does Jesus correct their thinking? (See Isaiah 66:1)
4. What is a modern-day example of oaths people make?
 - a. What are some flippant oaths people make?
5. Read Matthew 23:16-22. How does this passage deepen our understanding of Jesus commands here in Matthew 5?

Day 3—Verse 36

Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. --Matthew 5:36

1. To “make an oath by your head” was to make a stronger oath, since your head is the closest part of you to heaven and is an essential part of your being. What is today’s equivalent of “making an oath by your head”?
2. Again, the Pharisees would make oaths by lesser things. How does Job 12:10 and Colossians 1:16-17 refute their thinking?
3. From Proverbs 20:25, why would people break their oaths?
4. What is the underlying sin of breaking oaths?

5. Why do we distort the truth?

6. What are words that we use to describe our false speech rather than calling it what it is, lying?

Day 4—Verse 37

But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.
--Matthew 5:37

1. Is Jesus teaching here that you can never make a vow? Why or why not?

2. Should there be any difference in how seriously we keep our oaths versus our promises?

3. The rabbis distorted oaths by either so narrowly defining the terms as to render the oath worthless, or by saying the oath was only binding if it was sworn in very specific ways. How might we today distort our promises so that we don't have to keep them?

4. Why can our fear of man tempt us to be dishonest?

5. What do these verses tell us about speech and honesty?
 - a. Proverbs 12:22

 - b. Proverbs 19:1

 - c. Proverbs 26:28

 - d. Colossians 3:9

 - e. 1 Peter 3:10

6. How does James 1:19 help us apply the command given here?

Day 5—Verse 37

But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.
--Matthew 5:37

1. Since the purpose of taking an oath is to assure the other person of the truthfulness and reliability of our words, why does God make oaths with men when he makes covenants with them?
2. Read Numbers 30:1-9
 - a. What were the instructions for a man making an oath?
 - b. What were the instructions for a young daughter making an oath?
 - c. What were the instructions for a wife making an oath?

- d. Why were the instructions different?
 - e. Should a young daughter or a wife use the authority of her father or husband to get out of the vow that she made?
 - f. Does this mean that the promise of a man is worth more than the promise of a woman?
3. How might James 4:15 help us to be more truthful in our speech?
4. How might Matthew 12:36-37 help us to be more truthful in our speech?

5. What are some practical ways that we can grow in being truthful?

6. What comfort is there that our God is an oath and promise keeping God, for God cannot lie. What are some promises He has made to us?

Heart check:

- How reliable is your word? Can people trust you to do what you say you will do?
- Are there any areas of your life where you struggle to be honest?
- How seriously do you give your word? Do you arrive when you say you will? Complete the task that you promised? Follow through with the consequences you give your children?

Dig Deeper

1. Do a word study on integrity.
2. Do a study from Scripture on oaths God and man have made.