

Kings the Speech



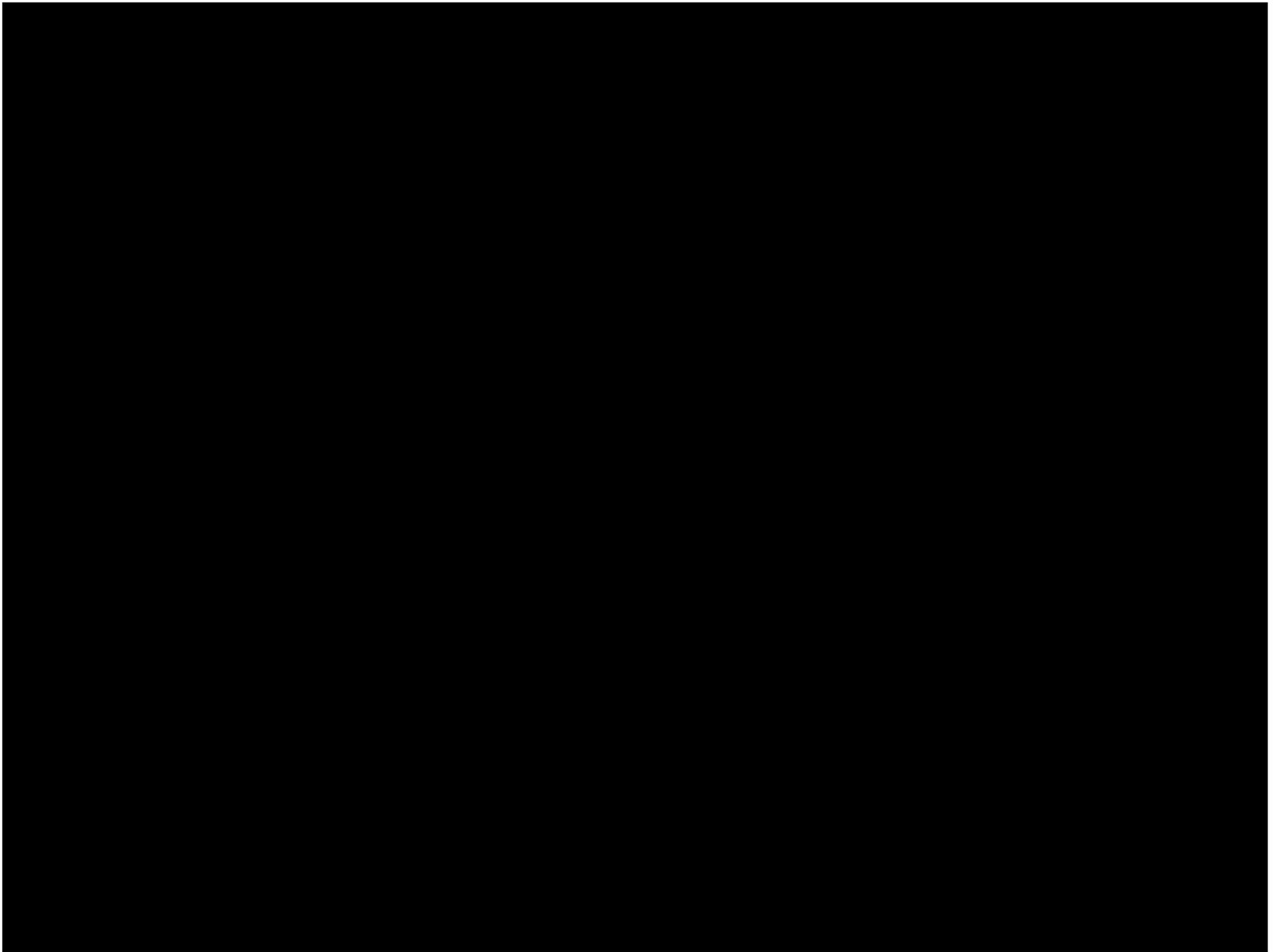
Part 6

Integrity

Matthew 5:33 - 37

breaks = relaxes

*to loose one who is bound, to
unbind, release from bonds*



The natural credibility gap is widened even further by popular novels, movies, television, and advertising—in which truth, fantasy, and outright falsehood are blended into mixtures impossible to unscramble. Truth is so scarce that nearly everyone is suspect . . . our whole society is largely built on a network of fabrication, of manufactured “truth.”

John MacArthur, *New Testament Commentary, Matthew*, p. 319



We shade the truth, we cheat, we exaggerate, we misrepresent income tax deductions, we make promises we have no intention of keeping, we make up excuses, and betray confidences—all as a matter of normal, everyday living.

John MacArthur, *New Testament Commentary, Matthew*, p. 319





THE PRINCIPLE OF MOSAIC LAW

Matthew 5:33

Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.” (NIV)

THE PRINCIPLE OF MOSAIC LAW

Exodus 20:7

You shall not take the name of the
LORD your God in vain, for the
LORD will not hold him guiltless
who takes his name in vain. (NIV)

THE PRINCIPLE OF MOSAIC LAW

Leviticus 19:11 & 12

¹¹ Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another. ¹² Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD. (NIV)

THE PRINCIPLE OF MOSAIC LAW

Numbers 30:2

When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said. (NIV)

THE PRINCIPLE OF MOSAIC LAW

Deuteronomy 23:21

If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not be slow to pay it, for the LORD your God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin. (NIV)

THE PRINCIPLE OF MOSAIC LAW

Do not break your oath, but
keep the oaths you have made
to the Lord.

THE PRINCIPLE OF MOSAIC LAW

Hebrews 6:16 - 18

¹⁶ Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. ¹⁷ God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind.

THE PRINCIPLE OF MOSAIC LAW

Hebrews 6:16 - 18

¹⁸ So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. (NLT)



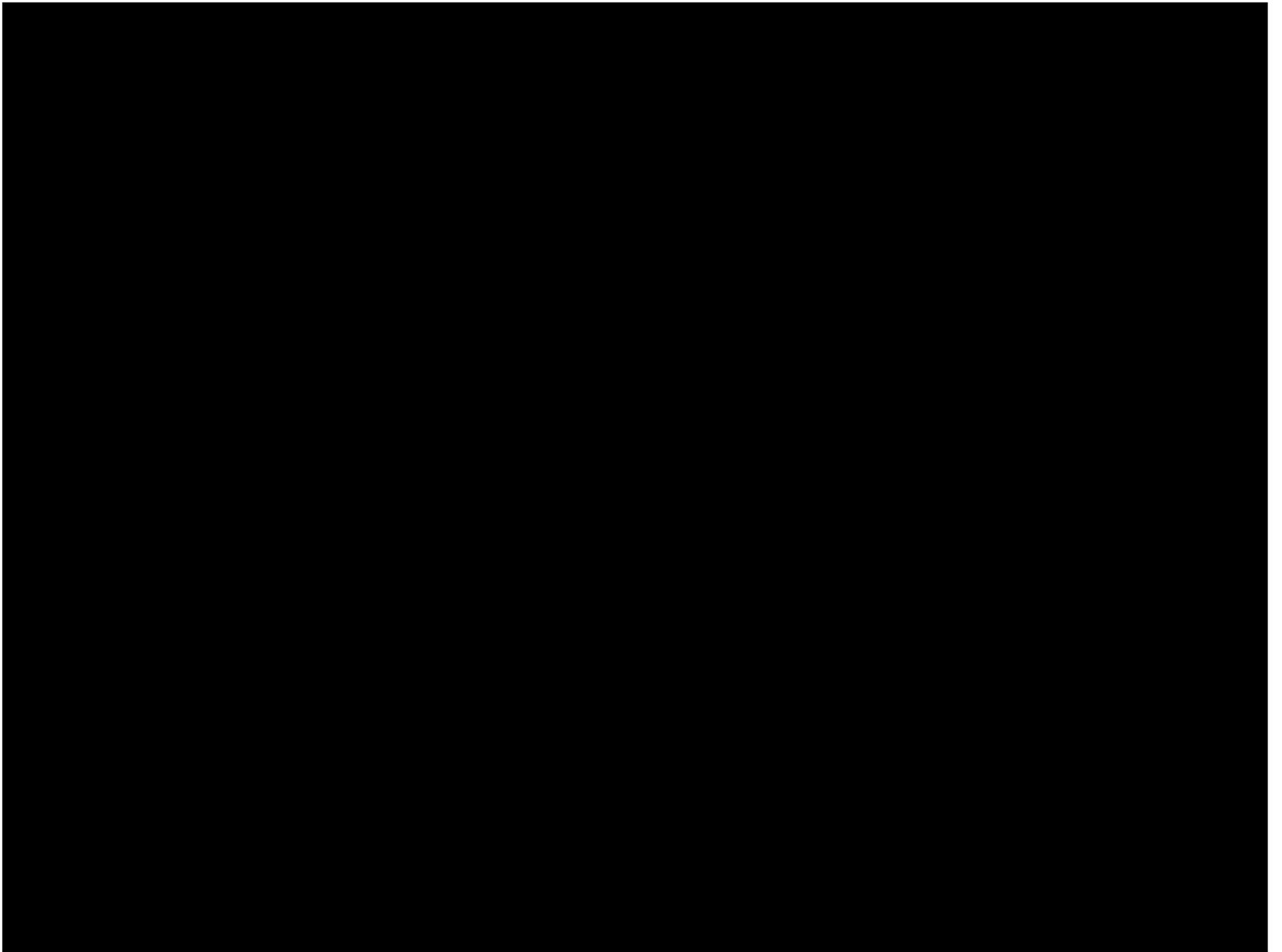
THE PURPOSE OF OATHS

1. Put a restraint on man's tendency to lie



One of the greatest problems with which Moses had to deal was the tendency of people to lie to one another and deliberately to say things that were not true. Life was becoming chaotic because men could not rely upon one another's words and statements. So one of the chief purposes of the law at this point was to check that, to control it, and, as it were, to make life possible.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones,
Studies in the Sermon on the Mount, p. 232



Proverbs 12:22

The LORD detests lying lips,
but he delights in people who
are trustworthy.



Any calling on God invites
Him to witness the
truthfulness of what is said
or to avenge if it is a lie.

John MacArthur, *New Testament
Commentary, Matthew*, p. 321





THE PURPOSE OF OATHS

1. Put a restraint on man's tendency to lie
2. Restrict oath-taking to serious and important matters



THE PURPOSE OF OATHS

1. Put a restraint on man's tendency to lie
2. Restrict oath-taking to serious and important matters
3. To stress that everything we do is under the watchful eye of God

Leviticus 19

¹ The LORD said to Moses, ² “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because *I, the LORD your God, am holy.*’”



Psalm 139:1 - 4

¹ You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. ² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue, LORD, you know it completely.



Psalm 139:7 - 12

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are
there. ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the
dawn, if I settle on the far side
of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your
hand will guide me, your right
hand will hold me fast.



Psalm 139:7 - 12

¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” ¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. (NIV)



Matthew 12:36

I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. (NLT)



Psalm 19:4

May the words of my
mouth and the meditation
of my heart be pleasing in
your sight, O LORD, my
Rock and my Redeemer.



THE PERVERSION OF THE LAW

The system of oaths between one person and another was like a giant game of King's X. People would swear by heaven, by the earth, by the Temple, by the hairs on their heads and by any other thing they thought would impress those they wanted to take advantage of. That kind of routine oath-making was usually lie-making; and was considered by those who practiced it to be perfectly acceptable as long as it was not in the name of the Lord.

John MacArthur, *New Testament Commentary, Matthew*, p. 323

THE PERVERSION OF THE LAW

1. They drew a distinction between oaths.
2. They focused on one legalistic point of the law to the exclusion of the heart of the law.

JESUS POINTS THEM BACK TO GOD'S ORIGINAL INTENT

Matthew 5:33 - 37

33 “. . . you have heard that it
was said . . .”

34 “*But I tell you . . .*”

JESUS POINTS THEM BACK TO GOD'S ORIGINAL INTENT

1. It's presumptuous to swear by anything because it all belongs to God.
2. Jesus isn't just talking about religious oaths or vows, his real point is about the truthfulness of our speech and life as a whole.

Truth has no degrees or shades. A half-truth is a whole lie, and a white lie is really black. God has never had any standard lower than absolute truthfulness.

... integrity in the inner man ...

Psalm 51:6 NET Bible

... a lying tongue ...

Proverbs 6:16 - 17 NIV

The LORD detests lying lips, but he
delights in those who tell the truth.

Proverbs 12:22 NIV



⁷ You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ⁸ “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹ They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”

¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.

Matthew 15:7 - 9 & 18 NIV



1. INTEGRITY IS IMPORTANT
BECAUSE *EVERYTHING* A
CHRISTIAN DOES IS IMPORTANT
BECAUSE OF WHOSE NAME YOU
BEAR . . . *CHRIST-IAN*



2. BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT TAKING OATHS

3. ALWAYS SPEAK AS IF YOU WERE IN THE
PRESENCE OF GOD . . . *BECAUSE YOU ARE!*

