

TAKE AWAYS

1. Integrity is important because everything a Christian does is important because of _____.

Matthew 5:16 – . . . let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Peter 2:12 – Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

2. Be _____ about taking oaths.

3. Always speak as if you were _____
. . . because you are!



SCC Message by John Aldax, April 17, 2016

Part 6

Integrity

Matthew 5:33 – 37

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³³ “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ ³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷ All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. (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*.

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)

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)

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)

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. 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 . . . OR SWEARING TO THE VERACITY OF A STATEMENT . . . WAS THREEFOLD:

1. Put a _____ on man's tendency to _____.

Proverbs 12:22 – The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

Proverbs 6 – “ a lying tongue.”

2. To restrict oath-taking to _____ and _____ matters.

3. To stress that everything we do is _____

Leviticus 19¹ 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 – 5 –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.**

Verses 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.

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)

We never _____ that God does not hear.
We never _____ that God does not see.

Matthew 12:36 – I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for *every idle word you speak*. (NLT)

Psalm 19:14 – May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your *sight*, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. (NIV)

THE PERVERSION OF THE LAW

1. They drew _____.

2. They focused on _____ of the law.

JESUS POINTS THEM BACK TO GOD'S ORIGINAL INTENT

1. It is _____ to swear by anything because it all belongs to God.

Matthew 23:21 – 22 –²¹ anyone who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. ²² And anyone who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it.”

2. Jesus real point is about the _____ and _____ 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) . . .

The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth. (Proverbs 12:22)

Matthew 15:7 – 9 & 18 –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.