



**Let your yes be yes!  
Matthew 5:33-37**

"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.'<sup>34</sup> But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne;<sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.<sup>36</sup> And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.<sup>37</sup> Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." Matthew 5:33-37

**Jesus is refuting a common misconception** taught by the Rabbi's in his day. They taught that if you swore an oath by God's name, you had to keep the oath. But oaths sworn otherwise weren't binding.

So when Jesus says, "Do not swear at all vs. 34, at first it appears like he's saying, "***Don't ever make any public promises or oaths.***" This is not true.

See Matthew 26:63,64

But Jesus remained silent. (So) the high priest said to him, "*I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.*" Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself.

Paul swore out his own oath in Galatians 1:20-

*I declare before God* that what I am writing to you is not a lie.

**So what is Jesus saying?** Every yes and every no must be truthful. No swearing, or oath making. You say something, you do it.

Community Group Questions:

1. Have you ever admitted that you are a liar?
2. Name some of the reasons why you've lied?
3. Share how humility and speaking the truth in love work together?

## 1. Jesus is teaching us the importance of truthfulness.

Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."  
Matthew 5:37

"Children generally lie and steal and cheat [and want to make reality what they want it to be] is routinely observable. The fact that sometimes they grow up to become truly honest adults is what seems the more remarkable." **M. Scott Peck** in *"People of the Lie"*

"The only way to overcome the unpredictability of your future is the power of promising. If forgiving is the only remedy for your painful past, promising is the only remedy for your uncertain future."

"In the same way, making promises and keeping them, making commitments, being true to people, being true and reliable and dependable and following through, is the only way you can have freedom in the face of an unpredictable future." **Author Lewis Smedes**

### **Pastor Tim Keller:**

*What Jesus is saying here is if you put truth before fulfillment you'll have both, and if you put fulfillment before truth you'll end up having neither.*

When we lie to each other remember what Paul said:  
Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.  
Galatians 6:7

## 2 Important keys to truth telling:

- A sinful promise requires repentance not fulfillment  
But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company, and she pleased Herod <sup>7</sup> so much that he promised on oath to grant her whatever she might ask. <sup>8</sup> Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter." <sup>9</sup> The king was grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he commanded it to be given;  
Matthew 14:6-9

- Always speak the truth in love  
"Speak the truth in love."  
Ephesians 4:15

Paul is saying if you don't speak the truth in love,  
you're not really honoring the truth.

## 2. How do become a person of integrity?

Do not swear at all: ... by heaven, ...<sup>35</sup> or by the earth, ... or by Jerusalem, ...  
And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.  
Matthew 5:34-36

The heavens, the earth, the city, and your head are His.

- You tell the truth because you're honoring your Creator.
- You tell the truth because He redeemed you.

"For you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body."  
1 Corinthians 6:20

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!  
Hebrews 9:14

Admit you don't like the truth. Admit you lie.  
That's the one honesty you have to give to Jesus.