

Sermon on the Mount Part 11
Yes means Yes and No means No
Matthew 5:33-37

I. What did the OT say?

- What we have read in Matthew 5:33-37 is basically a summation of what the OT says in reference to oaths.
- Other verses in the OT covering this topic include the following:
 - Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
 - Leviticus 19:12 And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I [am] the LORD.
 - Deuteronomy 6:13 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.
- In the context of these verses the name of God is not to be used in an inappropriate way.
 - You can take these words of scripture as truth Philippians 2:9-11

II. What the Pharisees taught about taking an oath

- The Pharisee's hinged much of their teaching on Deuteronomy 6:13
 - In reality what would ultimately happen the Pharisee would teach that the oath was only binding if a proper formula was used in making the oath
 - Essentially the Pharisee was setting up a legal loop hole to get out of keeping their commitments.
 - This simply allowed them to get out of accountability.
- Conversation between Jesus and the Pharisees
 - Read Matthew 23:16-22
 - Notice the very strong and harsh words that Jesus is using towards the religious leaders of the day. Why was He doing this?
 - There interpretation of the law was simply a miss application of the law and they were using it for personal gain.

III. What did Jesus teach about oaths? (Verse 34)

- In short Jesus teaches that we should not need to swear by anything
 - As a born again believer led by the Holy Spirit we need to let our yes be yes and our no be no.
- We are simply called to place a high value on truth and integrity as a believer.

IV. Truth and Integrity must prevail not idle words

- It is in the little areas that we sometimes overlook and neglect some very basic fundamentals rules of integrity.
 - Matthew 25:21 "His Lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the Lord."
 - Many times we are wanting to impress God with the big things and He is simply saying obey me with the small things in life.
 - The most obvious would be integrity (doing the right thing even when nobody is watching)
 - Another obvious area would be in simply telling the truth and the whole truth (a partial truth might as well be an entire lie)
 - A small thing can establish or crumble your witness!
- God has called us to a higher standard of living
 - God is calling us to be "Salt and Light" as described in Matthew 5:13-16
 - We have a great opportunity to be "Salt and Light" on a daily basis by being a person of honesty and integrity

V. Biblical Example of a dishonest person

- The account of Achan and Ai in Joshua chapter 7
- Achan was simply trying to hide the plunder stolen from Jericho in battle
 - Because Achan was not acting with honesty and integrity Israel was defeated at Ai.
 - Read Joshua 7:16-23
 - This is where I believe we get the term sin in the camp.
 - One of the biggest sins is not operating with honesty and integrity.
- When we live this way it will be evident by lack of fruit and ultimately God will call us out on our sin.