

Study of Matthew

October 2nd, 2022

Discussion Question: How is your truth telling? Are you a person of your word?

Matthew 5:33-37 *"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 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 take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil."* [ESV]

Jesus again addresses the issue of what you have heard people say, but here is what is truth.

Many see the text to mean:

- ❖ You can't cuss...but that is not what this passage is discussing. We should not use profane language but that is not what this passage is about.

Eph 4:29 *"Let no corrupt (unwholesome, NASU) communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."* [KJV]

Corrupt is rotten, worthless, morally bad

We can have corrupt thoughts, corrupt desires and in 1 Corinthians 15:33 *"Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."* [NKJV]

There is a difference in language around the world. At times certain words are culturally acceptable and in other places unacceptable. There are some words in some places that are not offensive but in others the same word will start a fight.

The Word of God must fit at all times, in all places, for all people.

- ❖ Should never make a vow.

If that is the case, then we would not make a covenant at marriage.

The scripture is full of vow making...covenant making in the form of a vow. In the Old Testament there are guidelines on making vows.

It is obvious that in the New Testament they did not see Jesus prohibiting vow making.

- Paul, has a vow that he has made in Acts 18:18
- In Revelation 10, John records that an angel makes a oath.
- God swears by HIMSELF

Hebrews 6:13-17 *"For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." 15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. 16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation (do you swear, affirm that's true). 17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath,"* [ESV]

Let's glean a few truths from the words of Jesus for our lives

1. Don't Play and Betray with Words (vs. 34 – 36)

The key here is the word in the KJV – foreswear

It means to commit perjury that is swear falsely or give a false testimony.

- *"You are never more like the devil than when you tell a lie." (Adrian Rogers)*

The people in Jesus' day thought the only vows you followed through on was the one's you attached God's name to. They were ignoring that God requires truthfulness.

Psalms 51:6 *"Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts:"* [KJV]

But Jesus says, it doesn't matter what you attach the oath to, you are dealing with God and HIS creation...so God is attached ...God's throne, the earth, the City of God or your own head...don't make it if you are going to perjury yourself.

If you are going to say I will do this but will not you are swearing falsely! We need to be people that speak the truth!

2. Pay what you Say

If you do decide to do an oath a vow then you should be committed to what you say.

Ecclesiastes 5:3-7 "For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words. 4 When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. 5 It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. 6 Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands? 7 For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear." [ESV]

Don't every make a rash and quick vow. In the heat of the moment; in a moment of despair or pain don't make a vow. Many have tried to manipulate God by saying, if you will do so in so I will do so and so.

Our vows, our oaths do not move God! God will move in our life based on HIS promises not ours.

3. Be Steady, Yes & No Ready (vs. 37)

Don't try to impress people... just be the steady Christian....say what you mean and mean what you say. When you speak, people should be able to say, "you can believe what they say!"

Proverbs 18:21-22 "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. 22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord." [KJV]

Power of life is in telling the truth. If you say something let it be true and there is power of life in it.