



Week 4 - I Swear

Series Passage: Matthew 5:13-48

Focus for the Week: Matthew 5:33-37, Exodus 20:7, Leviticus 19:12, Deuteronomy 23:21-23

Discussion Guide:

Q: Have you, or someone you know, ever fallen for a scam? OR What types of scams do you see or hear of in our day to day world?

As a result of our sinful condition dishonesty surrounds are day-to-day lives. Scammers constantly try and pretend to be something they are not so that they can get money out of people. To prevent ourselves from getting scammed we have a variety of verification methods to assure us of the identity, or organization, that is getting ahold of us.

This is not a new practice. In Biblical times this way of verifying what you were saying was true was to back it up with an oath. Oaths were made to various things with the thing being vowed by indicated the seriousness of the oath. God, in the Old Testament, gave laws concerning oaths.

Read: Exodus 20:7, Leviticus 19:12, and Deuteronomy 23:21-23

Q: From these passages what can we see about the seriousness of oaths?

Q: Was there anything from these passages that stood out to you?

Jesus, on the New Mountain, teaches quite directly on the matter of oaths and how we should be approaching them.

Read: Matthew 5:33-37

Q: Jesus in this passage tells us not to swear an oath at all. In light of the verses, we read earlier, why do you think Jesus would make this statement?

Q: What is at the heart of this passage?

Jesus in this passage is continuing his message about our hearts. Jesus wants us to be honest. "Oaths assume a world in which honesty must be promised - implying that honesty is not always present."^[1] Jesus is calling us to examine our hearts, and is telling us to be completely honest.

Finishing Well

God cares for us, and as we have seen from this week and last week, He has made concessions for us in our sinful nature. However, as Jesus tells us, these concessions should not be what we settle for. Remember that Jesus is "the way and the truth and the life." (John 14:6a) Nothing that we do will be able to save us from our sinfulness, but when we faithfully surrender our lives to Christ, by His grace alone, are we saved and through Christ we are transformed, amen!

Close in Prayer

[1] McKnight, Scot. 2013. *The Story of God Bible: Sermon on the Mount*. Edited by Scot McKnight and Tremper Longman iii. N.p.: