

A Generous Heart Matthew 5:33-42

Study#5 of Life on the Rock

1. Begin with Prayer

2. Read Scripture Together Matthew 5:33-42

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.' But I say to you, do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

3. Share Who You Are

- A. Why does Jesus command us to not take oaths? How does Jesus' command expand upon the third commandment and the ninth commandment? Why should we not invoke God's name when we make a claim?
- B. How do we demonstrate trust in God by not invoking His name to claim a truth? Why should our simple 'Yes' or 'No' be sufficient? (Proverbs 12:17-20). Are you ever tempted to add God's name to bolster your claims? Why?
- C. Was the intent of the Old Testament law Jesus quotes to encourage or limit revenge (Exodus 21:23)? Why do you think so? How does Jesus' teaching see through to the greater purpose of that law and not overturn it but double down upon it?
- D. Have you ever given to someone when it was painful, and you weren't sure they deserved it? Why did you do it? What happened? Does Jesus literally mean give to everyone who asks for money? Can we give them anything else? (Acts 3:1-10)
- E. What does Jesus mean when He commands, "Do not resist the one who is evil?" Should we not stand up against evil deeds? Or does it mean to not seek revenge?

4. **Next Step:** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you someone in need with whom you can be generous. Find a way to show them outrageous generosity and share what happened with your group.

5. Pray Together

