

Oaths and Kingdom Citizens Matthew 5:33-37

Introduction: Today I want to have a Word with you about _____ (**promises, swearing**). I also want to begin by saying this entire section is dealing with **telling the truth**. What is it about? **Telling the truth!**

How many of you have heard this saying, or perhaps have even quoted it:

“Cross my heart, hope to die, stick a needle in my eye”?

Some of the more common expressions today are:

Here is what Jesus taught His disciples:

I. Do not _____ falsely – 5:33

33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’

Now, where in the Old Testament does it speak about oaths, swearing, or making promises?

Old Testament Oath-taking

The basis of swearing, oath-taking, or making promises is found in the following Old Testament verses:

- Exodus 20:7 –
- Leviticus 19:12 –
- Deuteronomy 5:11 –
- Deuteronomy 23:21 –
- Ecclesiastes 5:1–7 –

Important point: According to the Old Testament whatever _____ or promise one made they were to _____ it.

Matthew 23:16-22 - 16 “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.’ 17 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? 18 And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.’ 19 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? 20 Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. 21 He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. 22 And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

Next, He says,

II. Do not _____ at all – 5:34-37.

34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

This is exactly what Jesus teaches in these verses. Kingdom Citizens don't need to take oaths. Look at what Jesus taught,

A. Neither by _____ – 5:34

34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne;

B. Nor by the _____, nor by _____ – 5:35

35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

C. Nor by your _____ – 5:36

36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.

So, then, what are we to do? It really is quite _____. It is so simple that we might neglect it, and at best overlook it. So, what is it? Are you ready? Here is what Jesus had to say to Kingdom Citizens:

III. But let your " ___ " be 'Yes,' and your ' ___ , ' 'No.' – 5:37

37 But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Kingdom Citizens are to say, yes or no! So then, let your "yes" mean "yes" and your "no" mean "no". That's it – Nothing more and nothing less.

God's people are just to speak the _____. There shouldn't have to be a need for swearing, making a promise, or an oath. You shouldn't have to swear to anything. Our word ought to be sufficient.

James 5:12 - But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

Christian character matters!

If the Lord _____

James 4:13-17 - *13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

God help us as Kingdom Citizens to speak truth.

Conclusion: In closing what can you and I _____ away with from this section of the Sermon on the Mount? Here are the top _____ ideas for us to take home with us:

1. Do not swear _____ – knowing that you have no intention of keeping your oath. Your character matters as a Kingdom Citizen.
2. Keep the _____ you make unto the Lord. For we will all answer before God.
3. Jesus isn't against oaths; He is against making an oath and not keeping it.
4. Kingdom Citizens are to be _____ tellers.
5. We should never swear an _____ by heaven, earth, Jerusalem, or by our head.
6. Kingdom _____ Citizens _____ are _____ to _____ say, " _____ or _____ " and nothing more.
7. We should be _____ of our word. God's people are just to speak the TRUTH.