

**The New Normal  
Breaking the Corruption of Loophole Lying  
Matthew 5:33-37**

**Three weeks ago we began a new series ...**

**I've titled it ... "The New Normal"**

**This is a phrase many have been using to define our current realities...**

**However, we are taking a different slant...**

**We are going to be walking through the most famous sermon every preached by the most famous preacher who ever lived...**

**We are going to be walking through Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount"**

**It is found in Matthew, chapters 5-7...**

**It could actually be better titled, "The Sermon of the Kingdom"**

**For in it Jesus shows His followers WHO they are and HOW to live in this fallen world**

**In today's message we are going to see how Jesus began...**

**Following those EIGHT BEATTITUDES ... the Attitudes of the Kingdom... Jesus tells His followers WHO they are...**

**We have seen clearly our responsibility...**

**You ARE the Salt of the earth**

**You ARE the Light of the world**

**The world is placing its hope in the idea that with enough knowledge, skill, and hard work, they can make this world a better place**

**Throughout the history of mankind people have fallen to this fallacy**

**I've titled today's message, "Breaking the Corruption of Loophole Lying"**

**I believe this message speaks directly to much of the current unrest in our nation...**

**ONE THING**

**What do I mean by "Loophole Lying"?**

**Loophole Lying is **DELIBERATELY** making **PROMISES** while **DECEPTIVELY** leaving paths of **ESCAPE****

➤ **Loophole Lying is the SKIN of TRUTH STUFFED with a LIE.**

**Jesus' sermon began with the “ATTITUDES OF THE KINGDOM”. The EIGHT beatitudes...**

**Then last week we saw where Jesus shared with us our IDENTITY in this DEACYING AND DARK world...**

**We are SALT and LIGHT...**

**As Jesus comes to the “HOW” He begins by expressing HOW THIS NEW NORMAL WILL BEGIN...**

**Matthew 5:33–37 (ESV) — “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.**

**The Old Testament clearly encourages people in making vows...**

**Deuteronomy 10:20 (ESV) — You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear.**

**But the Old Testament also discouraged the making of vows and then not doing them...**

**Numbers 30:2 (ESV) — If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.**

**Deuteronomy 23:21 (ESV) — If you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin.**

**So, in the Old Testament, vows were encouraged, but once made, they were not to be broken...**

**So, what is Jesus meaning when He says in verse 34...**

**Matthew 5:34 (ESV) — But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all ...**

**Remember that Jesus was confronting a faulty righteousness...**

**Matthew 5:20 (ESV) — For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**

**The religious leaders had come up with all sorts of “Loopholes” for making vows and then breaking them...**

**They had collected their oral laws and codified them into books called the Mishnah...**

**They had created an epidemic of frivolous swearing**

**It became a common practice to convince another person that you were telling the truth by lying that they had “loopholes” for their lies...**

**Or Loophole lying...**

**For example...**

***It was taught that if one swore BY Jerusalem they were not bound to the oath...***

***However, if one swore TOWARD Jerusalem they were bound...***

***The deception was subtle...***

***It created the following hair-splitting deception...***

***“I’m not really telling the truth, but I’m not really lying...”***

***It was like children saying, “I had my fingers crossed”***

***Again, Jesus was not denying the use of oaths, but was going to the heart of TELLING THE TRUTH!***

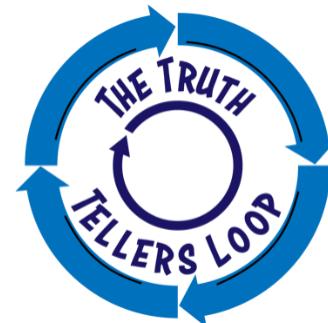
***So, Jesus’ basic teaching here is ...***

***Matthew 5:34a, 37 (ESV) — But I say to you ... Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.***

***Literally ... “the evil one”...***

***Today we are going to look at how we can break the corruption of Loophole Lying...***

**→ PIC BLANK**



***We can break the corruption of Loophole Lying by creating a new “LOOP” that I’m calling, “The Truth Tellers Loop”...***

***We begin by becoming...***

## ***1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the PROBLEM***

***Again, Jesus gave the following teaching...***

***Matthew 5:34a, 37 (ESV) — But I say to you ... Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.***

***Literally ... “the evil one”...***

***Clearly, Jesus is exposing the subtle art of lying...***

***→ Trust in our nation is at an all-time low...***

***The belief that the media is telling the truth has plummeted to lows never before seen...***

***→ ILLUSTRATION – Article in HBR – May, 1995***

**A Harvard Business Review article was written by Peter Vanderwicken entitled “Why the News is Not the Truth”.**

**He states that the news media needs crisis to dramatize the news...**

**He quotes in his article from an essay written by Paul H. Weaver**

**Paul H. Weaver wrote an essay entitled, “News and the Culture of Lying: How Journalism Really Works.”**

**Paul describes, in his article, the Culture of Lying as follows...**

**“The culture of lying, is the discourse and behavior of officials seeking to enlist the powers of journalism in support of their goals, and of journalists seeking to co-opt public and private officials into their efforts to find and cover stories of crisis and emergency response. It is the medium through which we Americans conduct most of our public business (and a lot of our private business) these days.”**

**→ BTW This article was written in 1995!**

**I believe we would most all agree that TRUST has all but eroded in our culture...**

***Loophole Lying is deliberately making promises while deceptively leaving paths of escape***

**Lying is a HEART ISSUE...**

**Matthew 15:19 (NLT) — For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.**

**The religious leaders didn't have a HEAD problem, but a HEART problem...**

**In John 8 Jesus exposed the root of the religious leaders problem...**

**John 8:44 (ESV) — You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

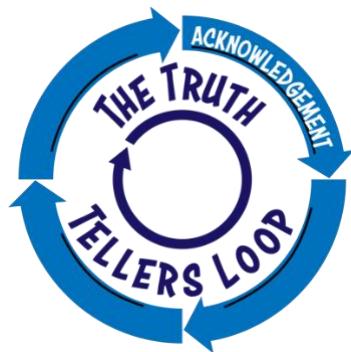
**Since Genesis chapter 3, mankind has been under the tyranny and tutelage of the god of this world...**

**1 John 5:19b (ESV) — ... the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**

**Our sinful nature is bent on making life work without God...**

**Romans 8:7–8 (ESV) — For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

**→ PIC 1 - Acknowledgement**



**You MUST become aware just how screwed up you really are!**

**Left to yourself, you will deceive and twist things to your advantage...**

**I know this is hard to hear, but know that ...**

**Embracing this reality will be the most freeing thing in your life!**

**Proverbs 26:18–19 (NLT) — Just as damaging as a madman shooting a deadly weapon is someone who lies to a friend and then says, “I was only joking.”**

#### **1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the PROBLEM**

#### **2. ADJUSTMENT to the SPIRIT**

**Galatians 5:16 (ESV) — But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

***The Lord knows that, left to ourselves, we will lie to each other, deceive each other, and NEVER please God...***

***That's GOOD NEWS!***

***He doesn't expect us to quit lying, but to quit living!***

***Galatians 2:20 (ESV) — I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

***As noted last week, Jesus is teaching about living God's Kingdom here on earth...***

***The New Normal is the responsibility of every believer to release God's Kingdom on earth***

***This calls EVERY follower of Jesus into a DAILY dependence on the Holy Spirit!***

***We can't produce God's Kingdom on earth in our own strength!***

***Only the Holy Spirit dwelling within us can!!!***

***→ PIC 2 - Adjustment***



### ***1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the PROBLEM***

### ***2. ADJUSTMENT to the SPIRIT***

### ***3. ACTIVATION of the SPIRIT***

*Ephesians 4:22–24 (ESV) — to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

*John 8:32 (ESV) — And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

*John 16:13 (ESV) — When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

→ **PIC 3 - Activation**



### ***1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the PROBLEM***

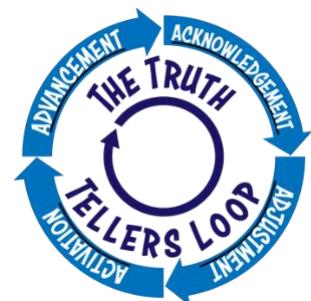
### ***2. ADJUSTMENT to the SPIRIT***

### ***3. ACTIVATION of the SPIRIT***

### ***4. ADVANCEMENT in the TRUTH***

*Ephesians 4:15 (NLT) — Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.*

→ **PIC 4 - Advancement**



**Matthew 5:34a, 37 (ESV) — But I say to you ... Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.**

**Psalm 15:1–2, 4 (NLT) — Who may worship in your sanctuary, LORD? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts... Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the LORD, and keep their promises even when it hurts.**

**James 5:12 (ESV) — But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.**

**James 4:13–17 (NLT) — 13 Look here, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.” 14 How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone. 15 What you ought to say is, “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.” 16 Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil. 17 Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.**

**The New Normal**  
**Breaking the Corruption of Loophole Lying**  
**Matthew 5:33-37**

Loophole Lying is \_\_\_\_\_ making \_\_\_\_\_  
while \_\_\_\_\_ leaving paths of \_\_\_\_\_

Loophole Lying is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ with a  
\_\_\_\_\_.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_

