

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Simple Honesty

With Jeremy Vasic
June 16, 2024



How would you define honesty?

Matthew 5:33-37 “You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord.’ ³⁴ But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne. ³⁵ And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. ³⁷ Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.”

Truthfulness is what Jesus cares about.

Dishonesty causes hurt and hardship.

James 5:12 But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

Honesty is other-focused.

Simple honesty is what Jesus cares about.

Simple honesty means being fully honest about our yes and no.

When we live as honest people, our character becomes our oath.

Big Idea: Become a person of honesty by becoming like the Person of honesty (Jesus).



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

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- 1) What has God revealed to you through the **Gospel Reading Challenge** this week? What have you learned or been able to apply?
- 2) Read Matthew 5:33-37. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible?
- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is implied in the passage for us? What did Jesus mean to avoid taking oaths?
- 5) How do you view your honesty being connected to Jesus as the Truth?
- 6) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this passage?



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