

Heartfelt Obedience Pt.8

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The context of this is that Jesus is bringing clarity to the Law by exposing the hypocrisy of the religious leaders...

- **Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)** - *"...unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."*

In our text Jesus condemns and rejects this dishonesty... and at the same time...

- ...He instructs His disciples and us He to be truthful with no deceit, and no fingers crossed behind our backs.

Psalms 51:6 (NKJV) - *"...You desire truth in the inward parts..."*

He's not just talking about the outward action...but the heart

Context for what Jesus is saying here is found in - **Numbers 30:2 (NKJV)** - *"If a man makes a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth."*

Matthew 23:16 (NKJV) - *"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.'"*

Psalms 15:4 (NKJV) makes it clear that if you swear an oath (regardless of what it was based on)...

- ...you we're obligated to keep your word and fulfill it *"even when it hurts."*

The religious leaders didn't care about this... and exploited this system of oaths to avoid being truthful...

Matthew 5:37 (NKJV) - *"But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."*

The Christian's life should reflect a pattern of truth and integrity...

Philippians 2:14-15 (NLT) - *"Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God... without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,"*