

Kingdom People Tell the Truth

Kingdom Culture | Part 5 | Matthew 5:33-37

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

Words carry a lot of weight. Jesus makes this point clear in Matthew 5. In His day, the Pharisees were abusing the power of their words, making oaths they didn't intend to keep. But Jesus dismantled their deception and called His followers to a life of radical truthfulness. He said, "Let your 'yes' mean yes, and your 'no' mean no." In other words, Kingdom people tell the truth.

KEY POINTS

1. Truthfulness Is a Matter of the Heart

The Pharisees taught that divine oaths made in God's name had to be kept, but other oaths could be broken. They lived in a culture where lying was normal — and people weren't trustworthy. Jesus confronted that. He said honest lips come from a holy life.

Truth doesn't start with our lips; it starts in our hearts. Proverbs 12:22 says, "Lying lips are detestable to the Lord, but faithful people are his delight." Psalm 15 and Luke 6 remind us that what fills our hearts will spill from our mouths. Jesus wants integrity, not loopholes. Half-truths are whole lies.

When our words are held up to the light of God's holiness, they should be "sine cera" — without wax, pure, and complete. The devil is the father of lies (John 8:44), but believers are called to be people of truth.

2. Small Lies Lead to Big Losses

Jesus warns that "small sins" like lying are never small to God. A tiny leak in a boat, a missing plug in a jet ski, or a faulty O-ring on the Challenger space shuttle may seem minor, but in the end, they can sink the whole thing.

Every major collapse begins with a small crack. In Luke 16:10, Jesus said, "Whoever is faithful in little is also faithful in much." What we call white lies or fibs, Jesus calls sin. Galatians 5:9 says, "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." Left unaddressed, small deceptions lead to major destruction.

All In with Jordan Easley

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3. The Call to Live with Integrity

Jesus said: “Let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no.” Integrity means what you see is what you get. No fine print. No loopholes. Say what you mean, and mean what you say.

As Paul wrote in Colossians 3:9, “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices.” We are no longer slaves to sin but have been set free to walk in righteousness (Romans 6). That means we must be known for truthfulness, not manipulation.

Recognize your sin. Repent of it. Refuse to return to it. Remain on the path of righteousness. And when it comes to your words — make sure they match your Christian character. Tell the truth, even when it's difficult. Be known as people of integrity, because your words represent the God you serve.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Why do you think Jesus equated lying and exaggeration with following the devil instead of following Him?
2. What are some “small lies” or half-truths that people in our culture often overlook? How does Jesus want us to view them?
3. What practical steps can you take this week to live with integrity and let your “yes” mean yes and your “no” mean no?
