
SERMON OUTLINE

Honesty

Matthew 5:33-37

- I. What the Law said – Don't break your oaths (Matthew 5:33).
 - A. The Law warned people not to break their oaths.
 - B. The Law warned that God takes oaths seriously.
 - God holds us accountable to be honest (Leviticus 19:12; Job 34:21; Psalm 33:13-15; Deuteronomy 23:21-23; Proverbs 20:25).

- II. What Jesus said – Just tell the truth whether or not you make an oath (Matthew 5:34-37).
 - A. Don't swear oaths as if it guarantees your truthfulness (5:34-36).
 - Swearing by God's name, or by the earth or by your own life doesn't make your word true.
 - Appealing to technicalities indicates a dishonest heart.

 - B. Oaths shouldn't be necessary to guarantee truth (5:37a).
 1. *Yes... No* – When we say something it should be true whether or not we swear to it.
 - Examples: Lies, Deceptions, Exaggerations, Promises not kept etc.
 - Root causes: Pride, fear, greed, etc.

 2. *From the Evil One* – Deception is satanic (5:37b; John 8:44).
 - Being truthful when it's hard means trusting God. Lying to protect myself means forfeiting God's protection.