

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

Who has been a person in your life that you took their word as truth?

BACKGROUND

Biblically, oaths have been used as a binding pledge to ensure truthfulness. Specifically, Exodus 22:10-11 shows us how an oath is used to settle disputes. In Genesis 24 oaths are used to solidify a covenant of truth between God and Abraham. And Deuteronomy 23:21 reiterates that to not keep an oath to God is an act of sin.

It is in Matthew 5:33-37 that Jesus' provides His guidance on oath making. Instead of acting like the Pharisees who had a habit of using elaborate, sometimes deceitful, oaths to avoid accountability; Jesus takes a different approach. Simply, letting our yes be our yes, and our no be our no, is the answer. If there is a need to elaborate from that, it is considered unnecessary and potentially deceitful. If someone's word is truth, no additional elaboration is needed.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: Matthew 5:34-36

“But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.”

READ: Matthew 5:33-36



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. What are we not to break?
2. What are we not to make?
3. What are we not to swear by?


DEEPER DISCOVERY

Look at Matthew 23:16. How does Jesus confront the scribes and Pharisees for their attempts to manipulate the truthfulness of making a promise?




HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God’s word.*

1. What would cause a person to feel like they needed to swear an oath?
2. What causes someone to feel the need to make an oath by a particular thing or person?
3. How does being a mere mortal impact our ability to fulfill oaths?
4. How does not keeping a promise affect our character?

 **HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. What are some examples of where you have made oaths that could have been a simple yes/no?
2. How can you engage your brother or sister in Christ to keep their yes as their yes and no as their no? How would you have that conversation?

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Matthew 5:37
"All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)