

The Sermon on the Mount  
Kingdom Citizens Speak with Integrity;  
Matthew 5:33-37

Background to Matthew 5:17-37

Exodus 20:13-16 “You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

In Matthew 5:33-37, Jesus addressed God’s will for truthfulness set in contrast to the prevailing view of the religious leaders of His day

This is similar to the divorce issue with the religious leaders, always looking for an exception legally, while ignoring the heart of God on the matter

Old Testament Statements Concerning Vows, Matthew 5:33

Matthew 5:33 “Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.’”

Rebuke of the Practices of His Day, Matthew 5:34-36

Matthew 5:34-36 “But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.”

Abuse of the intent of God’s Law by splicing words, crafting deceitful sentences, intentional withholding information, giving different levels of seriousness to statements

Matthew 23:16 “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple is obligated.’”

Matthew 23:17-18 “You fools and blind men! Which is more important, the gold or the temple that sanctified the gold? And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, that is nothing, but whoever swears by the offering on it, he is obligated.’”

Matthew 23:19-20 “You blind men, which is more important, the offering, or the altar that sanctifies the offering? Therefore, whoever swears by the altar, swears both by the altar and by everything on it.”

Matthew 23:21-22 “And whoever swears by the temple, swears both by the temple and by Him who dwells within it. And whoever swears by heaven, swears both by the throne of God and by Him who sits upon it.”

Offensive: using religious language in order to carry out abuse

God's Will for Us: "Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say!" Matthew 5:37

Matthew 5:37 "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil."

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