

Matthew 5:33-37 (10/6/2024)

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Matthew 5:33-37

NOTE: Jesus wanted to correct the misunderstanding of His people regarding the rabbinic traditions. “In Jesus’ day, rabbis concocted a system that defeated the purpose of oaths. They taught that oaths might or might not be binding, depending on how one swore: If one swore *by* Jerusalem it was not binding, but if one swore *toward* Jerusalem, it was. If one swore by the temple, it was not binding, but if one swore by the temple’s *gold*, it was.”
(Crossway ESV Expository Commentary-Matthew p. 97 by Daniel M. Doriani)

1. The very existence of conventions such as oaths show that lying, deception, and careless speech are common and destructive. If a person has to guarantee their word with an oath, what does that imply about them?

2. What is Jesus essentially telling believers by saying, “Do not take an oath at all”?

3. Give examples of oaths or promises we might carelessly make?

4. What are the consequences of breaking our word to someone?

5. All of us have lied and have broken our word. Recall a time you reneged on your word and/or a time someone broke their word to you. How did you feel and what did you learn?

6. Why do people struggle to let our “yes mean yes” and our “no mean no” (Matthew 5:37, James 5:12)? Discuss the powerful impact in the world if believers were known as people of integrity demonstrating that we are truthful, dependable, and reliable.