

Sermon on the Mount

Lesson Seven • Matthew 5:33-37

Radical Truthfulness

Speak with Surpassing Righteousness

When King Jesus rules our hearts, our mouths will speak with **RADICAL** truthfulness without having to play word games.

Matthew 5:33-37

What Radical Truthfulness Requires

1. Stop Looking for **LOOPHOLES** for Lying. (5:33, 34b-36)

What Did the Old Testament Actually Require?

Radical **TRUTHFULNESS** from the Heart.

- ▶ Be a **TRUTH-TELLER**. *Leviticus 19:12*
- ▶ Be a **PROMISE-KEEPER**. *Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 23:21-23*
- ▶ Speak truth from an **HONEST** heart.

*"Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom." Psalm 51:6*

How Was the Old Testament Manipulated?

Radical **DECEITFULNESS** by Abusing Oaths.

- ▶ Truthfulness is required *only* when you swear under **OATH**.
- ▶ Truthfulness is required *only* when you swear by **GOD**.
Mathew 5:23-26; 23:16-22

2. Stop Playing **WORD GAMES** by Oath-Swearing. (5:34a, 37)

"But I say to you, make no oath at all...But let your 'yes' mean 'yes,' and your 'no' mean 'no.' Anything more than this is from the evil one." Matthew 5:34a, 37 CSB

- ▶ Oath-swearing actually **WEAKENS** the truth.
- ▶ Oath-swearing forgets God always **WITNESSES** everything.
Ecclesiastes 5:1-3
- ▶ Oath-swearing should be replaced with **SIMPLE** truthfulness.
A simple "yes" or "no" should be sufficient! James 5:12

*Anything more than this is from the Devil, the Father of Lies!
John 8:44; Revelation 21:8; 22:14-15*

- ▶ Oath-swearing in public is not **FORBIDDEN**.

3. Speak Truth from a Radically Transformed **HEART**.

Ephesians 4:17-25

- ▶ Be **TRUTHFUL** in your speech. *Proverbs 12:22*
- ▶ Be **CAREFUL** in what you promise. *Ecclesiastes 5:1-7*
- ▶ Be **FAITHFUL** in following through no matter the cost. *Psalm 15*

The Heart of the Matter Is Always the Matter of the Heart

God's remedy for a dishonest heart is a **NEW** heart and His answer for our deceitfulness is Christ's righteousness in the Gospel.

"But that is not how you came to know Christ, assuming you heard about Him and were taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus, to take off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires, to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth. Therefore, putting away lying, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of one another." Ephesians 4:20-25 CSB

"The cross is God's truth about us, and therefore it is the only power that can make us truthful."- Dietrich Bonhoeffer