

Let Your “Yes” be “Yes”!

Matthew 5:33-37

Welcome back and here we go! Today we continue in Matthew 5 as we look at the “words” or “fruit” of our lips, trusting that the Holy Spirit will reveal even more than we think we know. Praise God for His faithfulness as we are needy people.

Matthew 5:17-20

Chapters 5 – 7 are all one sermon. Wow!

Chapter 5 deals with matters of the heart, whereas **chapters 6 and 7**, practical teachings.

- 1) What does it mean Jesus “*came to fulfill the law*”?

Jesus is doing a few things here.

- a) He is saying the Bible is inerrant.
- b) He obeyed it perfectly.
- c) He will one day fulfill all prophecy.
- d) He provides a way of salvation that meets requirements of the law.

Then He goes on to address the heart issues!

murder - adultery - divorce - swearing - revenge - hatred

Wow!

Matthew 5:33-37

- 2) What’s wrong with swearing?

You know at first look it might seem relatively harmless. But let’s ask ourselves....

- 3) Why do people feel like they need to swear?

You know for intelligent people --- am not saying you’re not --- just making a statement --- by having to swear it is almost like saying, my other words are untrustworthy, so I need to swear so you know “this” statement is true. Usually, it’s accepted that swearing is often a way of getting away with something!

The unscrupulous used vows to conceal the fact that they never intended to keep their promise. Today, we swear by the Bible, Grandma’s grave, etc.... Back then, they would swear by revered things like the gold in the temple!

James 5:7-12

The message is that by patience we will overcome.

- 4) Why is James so adamant we do not swear?

As I noted earlier, in the ancient times, people would swear mostly by holy or revered objects, often idols. In this, there is a sense of idolatry as though the objects held truth --- a spirit, and in it a false reverence. "These things are revered, therefore my statements are true!"

But Jesus said, "*I came to fulfill the law.*"

Deuteronomy 23:21-23

- 5) Does God take you and your promises serious?

The problem is often we swear and make promises under duress, then when things calm, we forget we made them. But God does not forget. In fact, God often MOVES on the basis of promises and vows, meaning, He takes them serious!

Jonah 1:16

God takes our vows of fidelity to Christ just as serious. Therefore, whomever the Lord loves....

Hebrews 12:3-6

There are consequences to not following our words.

So really it boils down to

- a) Don't swear to people.
- b) Don't swear to God.

King Solomon said...

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

- 6) What is your understanding?

May God Bless us with the ability to be true to our word!

Let's pray.