

Sermon Series: The Sermon on the Mount: Principles of Kingdom Living
Sermon Text: Matthew 5:33-37
Sermon Title : Kingdom Principles vs Legal Tradition: The Truth about Oaths
2 lessons

I. SPECIOUS OATHS ARE FORBIDDEN 33-35

A miniature expression of 23:16-22

A. THE STANDARD MESSAGE 33

See Lev 19:12; Num 30:2; Dt 23:21-23; Eccl 5:4; etc. A summary, not a direct quote, of these. OT understanding of oath = promissory, binding. 3rd, 9th commandments. Reverencing God's holy name. Meaning of truth in the inward being, Ps 51:6.

B. THE SPECIAL MEANING 34-35

The Prohibition against Oath-taking- Contradicting Dt 6:13? Absolute prohibition? God the Father in Gen 9:8-11; 22:16-17; Lk 1:68, 73; Heb 6:17; etc. and Jesus under oath in Mt 26:63-64. Double standard? No. Jesus rejecting Pharisaic hypocrisy.

The Peril in Oath-taking- It involves, implicates God at all points, in these 3 examples and also in the one in 36. From Isa 66:1; 52:1

The Perversion in Oath-taking— abusive practices by religious leaders to invalidate their oaths and to release them from commitments; creating many wearisome, wicked distinctions to support their evil intent, Recall Mt 23:16-22

II. ALL OATHS ARE FUTILE 36-37

A. TO PRODUCE CHANGE 36

These were sovereignly determined; the exclusive prerogative of God, Mt 6:27; 10: 30

B. TO PROVE CORRECTNESS 37

The Simplicity of our Word— essentially, the integrity of the Christian's witness. Speech = the most frequent means of communication; major means by which we are heard, known, must be marked by honesty, truthfulness

The Sincerity of our Word- Cf. Jas 5:12; 2 Cor 1:17-18. To avoid deception; the work, nature of the Evil One, Jn 8:44; 2 Ths 2:9-10 (12).

The Sufficiency of Our Word— no further guarantee or qualification needed, Jas 5:12. Oaths are unnecessary.

The Superiority of Our Word— Issue = truthfulness. Ps 119:160. Reflecting, attesting to the superior ethics of the kingdom to which we belong. Saved by truth— Eph 1:13; 2 Ths 2:13; 1 Tim 2: 4; Jas 1:18. Sanctified by truth, Jn 17:17, 19.

We, in whom the Spirit of God and Christ dwells, are called call to bear witness to Christ, The Truth, Jn 14:6, in all areas of life, by all means, including direct word— written or spoken; insinuation; implication; body language; etc.