

“The Heart of the Matter” Sermon Series (Sermon on the Mount)

Honesty is the Best Policy (Matthew 5:33-37)

-Sermon #1: Introduced “The Heart of the Matter” Sermon Series (The Sermon on the Mount) (Matthew 5:1-2)

-Sermon #2 and #3: “The Great Contradiction” (The Beatitudes) (Matthew 5:3-12)

-Sermon #4: “Being Salty and Shine” (Matthew 5:13-16)

-Sermon #5: “Become Greater” (Matthew 5:17-20)

-Sermon #6: “There’s Been a Murder” (Matthew 5:21-26)

Sermon #7: “Honoring Your Vows” (Matthew 5:27-32)

-Marriage is a lifelong commitment.

***Adultery breaks the commitment of sexual faithfulness**

***Divorce breaks the commitment of lifelong faithfulness**

-Therefore

1. Guard Your Heart

2. Watch Your Eyes

3. Honor Your Marriage

Sermon #8: Today we will look at “Honesty is the Best Policy” Let’s explore the subject of honesty and what Jesus says what Honesty and Integrity looks like.

I. Promises, Promises (v. 33)

-A. Old Testament Teaching on Keeping Oaths

-Leviticus 19:12: Do not bring shame on the name of your God by using it to swear falsely. I am the Lord.

-Numbers 30:2: A man who makes a vow to the Lord or makes a pledge under oath must never break it. He must do exactly what he said he would do.

-Deuteronomy 23:21-23: “When you make a vow to the Lord your God, be prompt in fulfilling whatever you promised him. For the Lord your God

demands that you promptly fulfill all your vows, or you will be guilty of sin. However, it is not a sin to refrain from making a vow. But once you have voluntarily made a vow, be careful to fulfill your promise to the Lord your God.

-B. Legal Loopholes and Manipulation of Vows.

-Matthew 23:16-22: "Blind guides! What sorrow awaits you! For you say that it means nothing to swear 'by God's Temple,' but that it is binding to swear 'by the gold in the Temple.' Blind Fools! Which is more important-the gold or the Temple that makes the gold sacred? And you say that to swear 'by the altar' is not binding, but to swear 'by the gifts on the altar' is binding. How blind! For which is more important-the gift on the altar or the altar that makes the gift sacred? When you swear 'by the Temple,' you are swearing by it and by God who lives in it. And when you swear 'by heaven,' you are swearing by the throne of God and by God, who sits on the throne.

-Oaths that they did not call binding Jesus traces to God himself.

-The meaning is that all oaths are by God.

-There is no distinctions.

II. Don't Swear at all (vv. 34-36)

A. Oaths actually weaken the truth.

B. God is always witness to what you say.

III. Keeping It Simple (v. 37)

A. Your "yes" or "no" should be sufficient.

B. Satan is the father of lies.

-John 8:44: For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil thing that he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

C. Public Oaths are not forbidden by Scripture.

1. God permits and takes Oaths.

-Deuteronomy 10:20: You must fear the Lord your God and worship him and cling to him. Your oaths must be in his name alone.

-Hebrews 6:16-18: Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without

question that oath is binding. God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.

2. Jesus took an oath in court.

-Matthew 26:63-64: But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I demand in the name of the living God-tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus replied, "You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds."

3. Paul calls God has his witness.

-Romans 1:9: God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom I serve with all my heart by spreading the Good News about his Son.

-2 Corinthians 1:23: Now I call upon God as my witness that I am telling the truth. The reason I didn't return to Corinth was to spare you from a severe rebuke.

Conclusion:

1. Be truthful in your speech

-Proverbs 12:22: The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth.

2. Be careful what you promise

-Ecclesiastes 5:2, 5: Don't make rash promises, and don't be hasty in bringing matters before God. After all, God is in heaven, and you are here on earth. So let your words be few... It is better to say nothing than to make a promise and not keep it.

3. Be Faithful in Following Through.

-Psalm 15:1-5: Who may worship in your sanctuary Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking truth from sincere hearts. Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil or their friends. Those who despise flagrant sinners and honor the faithful followers of the Lord, and keep their promises

even when it hurts. Those who lend money without charging interest and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent. Such people will stand firm forever.

1. Be faithful in your speech
- Proverbs 10:11: The Lord hates lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth.
- Proverbs 15:2: Be careful what you promise. Do not say too much, for the Lord will punish you for every word.
- Proverbs 15:1: A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh answer stokes anger.
- Proverbs 15:1: A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh answer stokes anger.
- Proverbs 15:1: A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh answer stokes anger.

2. Be faithful in following through
- Proverbs 12:1: Whoever swears and does not keep it, is like a gnat and a fly.
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