

Series: Upside-Down Kingdom  
Passage: Matthew 5:33-37  
Sunday: May 19, 2024

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**Matthew 5:33-37 (ESV)**

**Oaths**

<sup>33</sup>“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

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1. Think of a time when a simple “yes” had a significant positive impact on your life?
2. How does Jesus challenge the teaching found in verse 33? What higher standard does He call for in verse 34?
3. What are the 4 “oath formulas” that Jesus forbids in this passage? Why does Jesus teach to avoid these kinds of oaths?

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4. Is a partial truth the same as a lie? Why or why not?
5. What does lying or telling partial truths say about the desires of your heart?
6. Why should our yes be yes and our no be no? Why do you think we are so prone to search for loopholes in our speech?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 4:2. What does this verse teach us about truth?
8. How might the trustworthiness of our words be a testimony to the Gospel?