

Dishonesty & its Cause

Matthew 5.33-37

Overview

- **Vs. 33: Jesus paraphrases teaching in the Old Testament:**
 - Exodus 20.7: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
 - Leviticus 19.12: You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God
 - Numbers 30.2: If a man vows and vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth

- **Vs. 34-36: Jesus exposes that we have no ground to swear upon things that we cannot control**
 - Don't take an oath by heaven, for it is the throne of God (not your throne)
 - Don't take an oath by earth, for it is His footstool (not your footstool)
 - Don't take an oath by Jerusalem for it is the city of the great king (not your city and your not the king)
 - Don't take an oath by your own head, you cant make one hair change color (you can't control your hair)

- **Vs. 37: Jesus says you can control your integrity: Let your yes' be yes and your no's be no's**
 - Having to say more than simply yes or no illustrates that our lives lack integrity:
 - Since they lack integrity they possess deception: Satan is the great deceiver (Rev. 12.9)

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Share stories where you've seen/experienced/participated in dishonesty. And/or discuss any trades that you trust or don't trust and why.*

1. Read Matthew 5:12-15 and 5:17-20. What is Jesus driving at in the Sermon on the Mount as a whole?
2. Read Matthew 5:33-37. Why are 'oaths' necessary in a post-fall world? How did they come to be? (See Gen. 3.1-7)
3. In what way does it appear that people were using oaths? How do we do the same thing?
4. What does Jesus' corrections seem to be saying about the practice?
5. In what ways might Jesus correct us in the way we 'swear' or take 'oaths' based off His approach to the Sovereignty of God in all things?
6. Read James 5:12; Proverbs 10:9; 12:19; 19:1; 28:6; Colossians 3:9-10. What do these verses tell us about the importance of truth/integrity upon our lips? Why does God want us to be full of truthfulness and consistency?
7. Why do we lie/deceive others?
8. In what way is dishonesty connected to fear of being alone and/or unaccepted? How does the Gospel address this? How does the provision of the church help?

Accountability Question: *What are some ways the Lord has revealed to you that you need to have your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No' be 'No'?*