

We find ourselves this evening with the 4th time that our Lord said Ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, but I say unto you.

This evening swearing; or invoking or calling upon the Name of God as a witness to your words or to an oath. that what you are saying is the truth. Is this wrong? Is the Lord Jesus strictly forbidding oaths or swearing? Or, is the Lord teaching us here that there are times when we may swear by His Name?

Let's start off with what the people had heard and understood, and what they had been taught be the scribes and Pharisees; Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths

To forswear yourself means to commit perjury or to perjure yourself. Perjury is a term used in a court of law; it means to willfully lie after taking an oath to tell the truth. This is swearing falsely.

Now don't forget; in this whole section of the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus is exposing the hypocrisy of the scribes/Pharisees, and their false representation of the Law of Moses. Don't forget what the Lord said back in (V20):

Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in NO CASE enter into the Kingdom of heaven

What I believe what going on, in regard to what the people knew of swearing and oaths was grossly misrepresented by the scribes and Pharisees.

The scribes and Pharisees impulsively and rashly abused and misused oaths and swearing. We will see this in a moment! They swore by heaven, by the earth, by Jerusalem, and by their own head. Now I am not completely sure about HOW they swore by these things, BUT what I do understand is, heaven is God's throne, the earth is God's footstool, Jerusalem is the city of the Great King, and YOU my friends were created by God! They thought they were ok, because they did not swear by God's name. But, the Lord said, if you swear by heaven, that's God's throne, by the earth, that's God's footstool, by Jerusalem; that's the city of the Great King, by your head; well, you were created by God! Anyway, you cut it, THEY WERE dishonoring the Name of God!

Exodus 20:7: Thou shalt NOT take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain. Leviticus 19:12

The scribes and Pharisees were swearing by anything, and in doing so they were GREATLY dishonored God's Name! Matthew 23:16-22

Swear not at all! Especially not after the example of the scribes and Pharisees! James 5:12

But throwing God's Name around and swearing rashly and foolishly is no new thing; just tune your ears in, (in the world) and listen. It won't be long before you hear people

saying: I swear to God and using God's Name in vain.

Is it wrong to swear an oath before God?

If it is, I should not have raised my right hand and swore the oath of enlistment, when I entered into military service. I swore allegiance to this nation, to protect and defend the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic. Was that wrong?

We read of men of God in the Holy Scriptures who swore oaths before God, and called God to Witness their words before men, which I do not believe was sin. Their oaths before God strengthened their words and promises to each other and to God. Examples:

Genesis 21:22-24, 22:15-18, 24:1-9, 1 Samuel 20:11-17, Isaiah 45:23, Romans 1:9, 2 Corinthians 1:23, 11:31, Galatians 1:20

Of God: Isaiah 45:22-23, Genesis 22:15-18, Hebrews 6:13-20

When the Lord Jesus was before the high priest, and false witnesses were lying about Him, Jesus held His peace until. Matthew 26:59-64

(V63): OI adjure thee by the living God was the same as saying, I put you under oath before God to tell the truth!

Jesus did not rebuke him for putting Him under oath; he simply answered in truth!

Beloved: Oaths are not wrong, but they are to be limited, and entered into in matters of importance with all seriousness. But they are proper and right when taken solemnly and in matters of great importance.

The calling of God's Name as a witness to our words, vows, and oaths ought never to be taken lightly. When we rashly and impulsively swear, we are dishonoring God's Name.

That's why Jesus said, SWEAR NOT AT ALL; don't swear an oath if it is not solemn and necessary, just TELL THE TRUTH, and let your yea be yea, and your nay be nay!

Let your conversation in your everyday life be entered into truthfully; when you say yes or no, let it be so.