

I Say Unto You 4: Oaths (Matthew 5:33-37)

Introduction: Lying in America

1. verse 33: *Again, you have heard it said ...*

Again

You have heard it said to those of old

Leviticus 19:12

Numbers 30:2

Deuteronomy 23:21-23

Exodus 20:7,16 (3rd and 9th Commandment)

You shall not swear falsely ...

Jewish oath-taking

Matthew 23:16-22

Justifying lies in the Talmud

Lying in the Middle-east today

2. Verses 34-36: *But I say unto you ...*

From the lesser to the greater – all oaths are under God

Historical misapplications (Jehovah's Witnesses, Anabaptists)

God makes an oath (Gen 9:9-11, Heb 6:17)

Jesus under oath (Matt 26:63-64)

Paul under oath (Rom 1:9, 2 Cor 1:23, Gal 1:20, Phil 1:8)

Appropriate oaths

Civil magistrate, wedding vows

How church membership vows?

Deal with the heart of a lying tongue by

removing the false dualism of Secular vs. Sacred

3. Verse 37: *Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'*

Practical ways to obey this command:

Be on time

Follow through with what you said you will do

Even if it hurts you (Ps 15:2-4)

When there is a legitimate excuse

A real problem among younger people

Learn how to say 'no'

Let your 'maybe' truly be 'maybe'

Beware of "legalistic truth telling"

Beware of making promises

The One true Promise-keeper