

Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

July 9th

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 5:33-37

Oaths

Select a number of these questions to discuss:

1. List three "Oaths" that people drop into conversation these days to emphasise they are telling E.g. Kids used to say "cross my heart and hope to die" Adults might say "I swear on my kid's life...."
List two others

2. Should a Christian in court take an oath on the Bible?

"I swear Almighty God that the evidence I shall give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

What might be the implications if you refuse?

3. We seem to live in an age where too many promises are conditional on no better offer coming up closer to the time of the event. For example: "Oh yeah I'll be coming to your party at the end of next month, 100%, no worries." Five days out from the party a better offer comes up and the person might respond to the initial host with a text msg "oh I am so sorry something's come up out of the blue and I am unable to make it but I do hope that you have a great night. Cheers"
Do you think the invitee has sinned? Discuss

How does this passage speak to this modern tendency?

Psalm 15 NLT version

1 Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord?

Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?.....

4 Those who.....keep their promises even when it hurts.

4. When it comes to making a commitment, are there times when a "flat firm no" is better than a "soft tentative yes"?

5. True Story "I've seen an old farmer in country Victoria refuse to sign the real estate agent's agreement to sell his property – he gave him the work simply with words akin to these "I don't need to sign your piece of paper, my word is my bond" The property was sold, commission was paid and solicitors exchanged paperwork. Discuss – Do you think we lost something in our society where a person's word can no longer be taken 'as gospel'?

6. The religious leaders of course were trying to weasel out of keeping their word, by defining that "it does or doesn't count depending on what you swear by". How does Jesus nail them with his answer?

7. Jesus emphasizes the importance of letting our "yes" be "yes" and our "no" be "no" . How does this teaching relate to the concept of integrity and building trust in our relationships? Can you share examples of how practicing this principle has positively impacted your own interactions with others?

8. Jesus suggests that our words should carry weight and be a reflection of our character. How can we cultivate a habit of speaking truthfully and with integrity, even in situations where it may be easier to lie or withhold information? What steps can we take as a group to encourage one another in this pursuit of honest speech?

9. Reflecting on Matthew 5:33-37, how do you think our words and promises impact our witness as followers of Christ? In what ways can our commitment to truthfulness and integrity serve as a testimony to those around us? Can you think of any personal experiences where you've seen the positive or negative consequences of someone's words aligning or contradicting their faith?