

1. Connect

Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.

2. LifeJournal

As we continue to move together as a church in His Word, last Sunday we were in Mt. 21:23-32. Share your SOAP application or prayer with your group. *Next week, pay special attention to Mt. 23:13-24 as we will be discussing this passage together.

3. Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

This week, our message was from Matthew 5:33-37. Read the passage and dive into the questions below.

Matthew 5:33-37 (NIV)

³³ "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.' ³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷ All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

1. Take some time to study the passage. In what circumstances do you see people make oaths?
2. Truth telling can be easy and challenging in certain circumstances. What are some conditions that make speaking truthfully hard?
3. Pharisees had different conditions when it came to oaths (cf. Mt 23:16-22, 5:34-36). Though we may not have these intricate levels of conditions, we may still have conditions in our truth telling. Why do you think Jesus proposes to just speak truthfully?
4. In verses 35-36, Jesus emphasizes that promises should not be sworn on other powers or even yourself. What do you think Jesus is implying when he says, 'for you cannot make even one hair white or black?'
5. Instead, Jesus says, "all you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No.'" Therefore, why should oaths be unnecessary for Christians?

4. Apply: Next Faithful Step

Jesus emphasizes here that we should just be truthful, and the power to deliver on these promises is under His power.

1. In what areas might we struggle to be truthful? Why?
2. In what areas might we not fully understand our limitations?
3. How does the redeemed life in Christ help us live with integrity and wholeness? Pray with and for your group to live out the Gospel in our speech.

5. Prayer

Take some time to hear prayer requests from each member of your LifeGroup. Pray for one another, for your families, communities, our church, and the world.

*If anyone needs additional pastoral support or prayers regarding this sermon or any other aspect of our series, please don't hesitate to reach out to our pastoral staff. We would love to chat more deeply and pray with you.

