

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Man and Truth Meet At The Cross Matthew 5:33-37

Questions

- Why do people have such a penchant for lying?
- Why do we persecute and crucify truth so easily?
- Hey, in light of the great devastations to humanity, does it really matter how we should be speaking to one another?

We are all being watched & therefore everything we do is of tremendous importance.

We are to be "ambassadors of Christ".

"Don't lie to one another, since you are united, speak the truth always" (Ephesians 4:25).

"There is no truth towards Jesus without truth towards man. Untruthfulness destroys fellowship, but truth cuts false fellowship to pieces & establishes genuine brotherhood. We cannot follow Christ unless we live in revealed truth before God & man."

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

This is a solemn issue. Are not most of our troubles in life due to the fact that men / women aren't sure to BELIEVE what is being said?

The Mosaic Legislation

IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM

"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'" Matthew 5:33

- Deuteronomy 5:11; 6:13; Leviticus 19:12
- Our Lord Jesus' concern is to correct this false teaching, but also to replace it with true teaching and in doing so reveal the real intent and object of the law as given to Moses by God, which is binding on all who are concerned with the honor and GLORY of God.

TO BRIDLE MAN'S PRONENESS TO LYING

- To the Pharisees/scribes committing perjury was very serious; a terrible sin they denounced. The problem with the Pharisees/scribes is that they reduced this issue to one of perjury ONLY.

TO CLEAR UP THE FALSE INTERPRETATIONS

- In Matthew 23, Jesus poured His SCORN on the Pharisees' perversion of the law and also upon their utter dishonesty in it all.

The Lord's Teaching

HIS CONCERN FOR COMPLETE TRUTHFULNESS

- The Law Giver speaks - *"But I say to you..."*
- The Negative *"Do not swear at all..."*
 1. Defining an oath: a public appeal made to God in calling on Him to WITNESS a statement made in connection with an event or fact (Matthew 23:23-24).
 2. Does that mean no oaths? (Romans 9:1; 2 Corinthians 1:23; Hebrews 6:13-20).
 - The conclusion based on Scripture is while oath-taking must be restricted, there are certain solemn, vital OCCASIONS when it is not only legitimate, but actually adds authority.
 3. Two ways untruthfulness can undermine the oath;
 - What we know as PERJURY.
 - Invoking some secular or divine POWER instead of the living God.

“Do not swear at all, neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; not by the earth, for it is His footstool; not by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.” Matthew 5:34-36

- When a lie ENTRENCHES itself behind an oath, there’s no other way of ensuring complete truthfulness but by abolishing the oath.

Either / Or

WHAT DOES THE LORD TEACH POSITIVELY?

“But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’” Matthew 5:37a

- Every word you utter is spoken in God’s PRESENCE, and not only the words which are accompanied by an oath!

*“One of the great scandals of life today is the appalling increase in divorce & infidelity. **To what is this due?** It is that men have forgotten the teaching of Christ w/ regard to vows & oaths, & common truth & honesty in speech. How like these Pharisees & scribes we are...we seem to think it is somehow different when we tell what we call a ‘white lie’ in order to get out of a difficulty.’ ~ D. Martin Lloyd Jones*

And Nothing More

OUR GOD IS THE TRUE GOD AND THE GOD OF TRUTH

“For whatever is more than these is from the evil one” Matthew 5:37b

- Proverbs 12:22
- It is not the oath that holds the truth, but the PERSON who makes the oath that holds the truth.
- The most an oath can do is to testify to the fact that the Christian is bound to the will of God alone, and that every other obligation is for the sake of Jesus.

Cutting it Straight A Universal Law that covers all of life.

1. The message comes right home to each one of us: We must not lie.
 - Charm – Proverbs 31:30
 - Flattery – Proverbs 29:5; 28:23; 20:19; Psalm 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-5
2. There is one way to deal with all these things: Holiness.
 - We must always realize we are in the PRESENCE of God.
3. The Tragedy of the Modern View of Holiness
 - Today holiness and worldliness are defined in a manner far REMOVED from biblical usage.
 - What the Church needs to do is to make DISCIPLES, to grow people in the faith, not be spectators. Church leaders need to examine whether they are making disciples, teaching them to obey all that Christ commanded. Bible study is the only way to a transformed life, what Jesus demands. We need to know what we believe so we can live changed lives and defend Christianity against it’s detractors.
 - **Let us remember that every conversation is in Jesus’ presence. Only those who follow Jesus & cling to Him are living in complete truthfulness.**
 - **They cannot hide their sinfulness from Jesus, for He has revealed Himself to them by calling them to follow Him.**
 - **Complete truthfulness is only possible where sin has been uncovered, exposed, confessed & forgiven by Jesus.**
 - **Only those who are in a state of truthfulness through the confession of their sin to Jesus are not ashamed to tell the truth wherever it must be told.**
 - **When we know the Cross, we are no longer afraid of the Cross!**

For completed notes of today’s sermon, visit the FFC website – www.faithfellowship.us. Thanks.