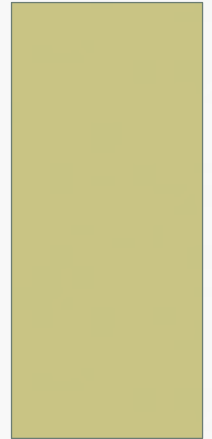




MATTHEW 5

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Making an Oath



INTRODUCTION

- Salt and Light, **5:13-16**
- The Fulfillment of the Law, **5:17-20**
- Murder, **5:21-26**
- Marriage, Adultery, Divorce, **5:27-32**
- Oaths, **5:33-37**
- Eye for Eye, **5:38-42**
- Love for Enemies, **5:43-48**



SIGNIFICANT INSIGHTS INTO DISCIPLESHIP



- **1. Influence—two metaphors of salt and light**
- **2. Does not set aside commands and teachings of Jesus**
- **3. Practices and teaches... “great”**
- **4. righteousness has to “surpass” that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law**

SIGNIFICANT INSIGHTS INTO DISCIPLESHIP

- **5. righteousness has to “surpass” that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law—”great in the kingdom“**
- **6. Murder—anger, reconciliation and worship**



SIGNIFICANT INSIGHTS INTO DISCIPLESHIP

- **Marriage, Adultery, Divorce 5:27-32**
- **Neither school of rabbinic tradition got it right**
- **Covenant commitment demanded on part of both partners**
- **Both can be guilty of adultery**
- **Heart of the issue—looking lustfully**

MAKING AN OATH, 5:27-32



- Notice James 5:12
- Both Matthew and James are written to Jewish Christians
- Long-standing Jewish tradition
- Shock at the misuse of language & accountability, **12:33-37**.
- Judaism continued system of oaths & vows in OT
- Guarantee some words as especially true

MAKING AN OATH, 5:27-32

- Oaths involve communication between two parties, with the name of God (or valid substitute) invoked as guarantor.
- Vows were made directly to God
- What was confirmed by an oath had to be true; what was vowed had to be done.



MAKING AN OATH,

5:27-32



- **Mishnah—tractate on oaths (Shebuoth)**
- **Mishnah—tractate on vows (Nedarim)**
- **In Jewish & Gentile world...invoked the deity to guarantee the truth of what was said, or to punish the one taking the oath if what was affirmed was not true.**

MAKING AN OATH, 5:27-32



- Jesus formulates his antithesis on this subject by summarizing and paraphrasing the Old Testament teaching this practice
- **Leviticus 19:12**--“Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.”
- **Psalms 50:14**--“Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High...”



MAKING AN OATH, 5:27-32

- **“This is somewhat analogous to the legal distinction made in the United States courts between statements made under oath and other statements that are not. To testify falsely under oath is a crime, Other false statements may be considered morally wrong, but the oath system is considered necessary in order to guarantee the truth of at least some statements, and to tell when guilt has been incurred by falsehood and when not.”**



MATTHEW 23:16-21

- **¹⁶ “Woe to you, blind guides! You say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gold of the temple is bound by that oath.’ ¹⁷ You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? ¹⁸ You also say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gift on the altar is bound by that oath.’**



MATTHEW 23:16-21

- **19 You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? 20 Therefore, anyone who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. 21 And anyone who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. 22 And anyone who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it.**



MAKING AN OATH, 5:27-32

- **Jesus abolished the distinction between words that must be true and those that must not be.**
- **No distinction between word that one is compelled to stand behind and those one must not, and calls for all speech to be truthful.**
- **Jesus assumes disciples will make specific application**

APPLICATION FOR DISCIPLES



- Clear in cases of communication between individuals
- Swearing on mother's grave, or the Bible, or "my word as a gentleman," etc. seems to be parallel situations in our contemporary setting.
- Tough issue is about being in court and asked to swear on the Bible that you are telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.