

# The Sermon on the Mount: When “Yes” and “No” Are Enough

## Matthew 5:33-37

📖 Matthew 5:33–37 (NIV) “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’<sup>34</sup> But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne;<sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is His footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.<sup>36</sup> And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.<sup>37</sup> Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

### People use oaths to **communicate** their **commitment**.

📖 Matthew 5:33 (NIV) “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’”

📖 Leviticus 19:12 (NIV) “Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.”

📖 Numbers 30:2 (NIV) “When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.”

📖 Deuteronomy 23:21–23 (NIV) “If you make a vow to the Lord your God, do not be slow to pay it, for the Lord your God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin.<sup>22</sup> But if you refrain from making a vow, you will not be guilty.<sup>23</sup> Whatever your lips utter you must be sure to do, because you made your vow freely to the Lord your God with your own mouth.”

### People use oaths to **corroborate** their **claims**.

📖 Matthew 5:33–36 (NIV) “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’<sup>34</sup> But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne;<sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.<sup>36</sup> And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.”

📖 Colossians 3:8 (NIV) “...rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.”

📖 Isaiah 66:1 (NIV) “This is what the Lord says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?”

📖 Matthew 10:30 (NIV) “...even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

### People use oaths to **camouflage** their **character**.

📖 Matthew 5:37 (NIV) “Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

📖 John 8:42–44 (NIV) “Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but He sent me.<sup>43</sup> Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.<sup>44</sup> You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

**Digging Deeper—** What are some oaths that are commonly taken today? What are some oaths that you have made? Have you had someone break a promise that they made to you? Can you describe a time when you were convinced to do something only to find out later that you had been duped? Who in your life has proven to be a person that you can take at their word? Are you a person of integrity? Can your word be trusted? Will you do the right thing, with or without a contract? What is God asking you to do today?