



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of January 16, 2022

Oaths

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Matthew 5:33-37](#)

³³“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

- Think about a promise you have broken. **What happened after you broke the promise?** How do you think about **the making of that promise today?**
- In this part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is referencing the Law of Moses and “false swearing”. Read [Leviticus 19:12](#), [Numbers 30:2](#), and [Deuteronomy 23:21](#). **What is the core problem with “false swearing”?**
- Later in Matthew, Jesus expresses contempt for elaborate oath formulas. Read [Matthew 23:16-22](#). Jesus uses some strong language—**why does he call these leaders “blind fools” (17)?**
- People invoke all sorts of things, other than God, in making an oath. Jesus mentions “heaven”, “earth”, and “Jerusalem” as examples (34-35). **Why would someone invoke these sorts of things in an oath?** How does Jesus use [Isaiah 66:1](#) to show that **practices like this “come from evil” (37)?**
- Does Jesus teaching mean, for example, that Christians **should refuse to testify under oath in a court of law?**
- What is **Jesus’ point in verse 36?** What is He **saying about God? About you?**
- Why are **oaths unnecessary for the followers of Jesus Christ?**
- The One teaching here always speaks the truth and keeps His promises. In fact, He is the Truth and the fulfillment of all God’s Promises. **How does the faithfulness of Jesus Christ encourage and strengthen you** to “let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ (37)”?
- **Pray together** in light of this week’s passage.