

# Nothing But the Truth (Pt. 2)

*Matthew 5:33-37*

- I. The Flawed Interpretation of the OT Command for Truthfulness (33)
  - A. "Honesty is limited to oaths made in human courts" (33a).
  - B. "Honesty is limited to vows made to God Himself" (33b).
  - C. "Honesty is limited to promises made in God's name" (34-36).
- II. Jesus' Correct Interpretation of the OT Command for Truthfulness (34-37)

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## II. Jesus' Correct Interpretation of the OT Command for Truthfulness (34-37)

### A. Jesus Doesn't Mean...

#### 1. "We must never take a legal oath."

- The OT demanded oaths in similar situations (Num. 5:19-22; Dt. 6:13; 10:20).
- Jesus swore to the truth under oath (Mt. 26:63-64).

#### 2. "We must never make a vow to God" (contra. Acts 21:17-26).

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## A. Jesus Doesn't Mean...

3. "We must never make a solemn oath using God's name to confirm our word."

- Abraham (Gen. 14:22-24; 21:23-24; 24:3, 9)
- Jacob (Gen. 47:31; 50:5)
- Paul (Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:23)
- God Himself (Gen. 22:16; Ps. 89:3; 110:4; Heb. 6:13)

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## II. Jesus' Correct Interpretation of the OT Command for Truthfulness (34-37)

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1. "We must never take a legal oath."
2. "We must never make a vow to God" (contra. Acts 21:17-26).
3. "We must never make a solemn oath using God's name to confirm our word."

### B. Jesus Does Mean...

1. All oaths & vows are serious and must not be made frivolously or frequently (34-36).

# Timeless Lessons

1. Don't make every-day, frivolous oaths.
2. When you make a vow to God, keep it.
3. When you use an oath, always tell the truth.

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### A. Jesus Doesn't Mean...

1. "We must never take a legal oath."
2. "We must never make a vow to God" (*contra. Acts 21:17-26*).
3. "We must never make a solemn oath using God's name to confirm our word."

### B. Jesus Does Mean...

1. All oaths & vows are serious and must not be made frivolously or frequently (34-36).
2. All our words are to be radically truthful, so everyday oaths are unnecessary (37).

# Some Reasons People Lie...

1. To protect themselves (Gen. 12:19; 20:2; 18:15; Mt. 26:72)
2. To make themselves look good (Acts 5:1-9)
3. To be considered spiritual (1 Sam. 15:13; 1 Tim. 4:2)
4. To hide personal hatred (Pr. 10:18)
5. To gain financial advantage (Gen. 27:19; Pr. 21:6)
6. To hide their guilt (Gen. 4:9; 37:31-32)

# Why is honesty so important to our Lord?

1. God's character manifests it (Num. 23:19; 2 Cor. 1:17; Heb. 6:18)
2. Our gospel witness depends on it (2 Cor. 4:1-2; Phil. 2:15-16)
3. Jesus' person demands it (Jn. 14:6)
4. Our words reveal the state of our hearts (Mt. 12:34-37)