

## KINGDOM HONESTY

August 24, 2014 Matthew 5:33-37 by Bob Branch  
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 12

---

**MAIN IDEA:** Through oath-making, Jesus takes us deeper into how the Gospel changes us... into people of deep-heart integrity, who are transparent and true to their word, and who use their words with great care and reverence.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ **Matthew 5:33**

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain...“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” **Exodus 20:7, 16** ESV (Lev. 19:11-12; Num. 30:2; Eccl. 5:4-5)

“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High” **Psalms 50:14** ESV

**1. Oaths were a way of warding off falsehood and guaranteeing fulfillment of a promise.**

<sup>34</sup> But I tell you, do not swear an oath 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. **Matthew 5:34-26**

**2. Everything we say is WITNESSED PERSONALLY by God and we will give account to him on it.**

“I tell you that people will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.” **Matthew 12:36**

<sup>37</sup> **All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.**

**3. Don’t swear oaths at all, but always TELL THE TRUTH and keep your word.**

**4. Whenever something has to be added to our promise to establish trust, the ENEMY is lurking near. Mistrust, falsehood & lies are his game.**

“He (satan) does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” **John 8:44**

“Jesus destroys the lie... the lie must be seized by Jesus in the very place to which it flees, in the oath. Therefore the oath must go, since it is a protection for the lie.” **Bonhoeffer**

### In practice...

---

- **What about oaths in legal proceedings?**
- **Start with confessing and being completely honest with God, and others.** A transparent life.
- **Agree with the truth of God and that God is completely true.**
- **Keep your word... follow through.**
- **Use “God said” rarely...**