

WEEK 9 | MATTHEW 5:33-37

A BEAUTIFUL KINGDOM

As believers in Jesus Christ, and citizens of His Kingdom, we have the unique responsibility to reflect the glory of God to a watching world. In this series, we are studying Jesus's words in the Sermon on the Mount, considering what it means to flourish under His rule and reign, and live as His representatives where we work, live, and play. In Matthew 5:17-48, Jesus gives six antitheses to contrast true and false interpretations of the Old Testament. In today's passage, Jesus corrects misunderstandings of marriage, divorce, and sexual immorality.

“**Antithesis:** the rhetorical contrast of ideas by means of parallel arrangements of words, clauses, or sentences”¹

OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful as you consider this text.

- Matthew 5:8
- Matthew 5:17
- James 5:12
- Psalm 15
- John 14:6
- 1 Thessalonians 5:24

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of this week's scriptures.

1. Did the Holy Spirit use last week's passage or sermon to convict, challenge, or encourage you in any way? Did he use it to confirm or answer a prayer in any way? If you're willing, share with the group?
2. How do Jesus' words in Matthew 5:8 and 5:17 relate to his outlook on oaths in vv. 33-37?
3. Consider vv. 27-37 silently for a few minutes. In your own words, summarize the connection between the three. How should a God-honoring practice of oaths affect your outlook on divorce and adultery? How do adultery and divorce erode trust in promises?
4. Consider your own life. How have you been affected by broken promises? If you're willing, share a bit of your story.
5. Now read Psalm 15. Who are some people in your life whose integrity have affected you? How?
6. Finally, read John 14:6 and 1 Thessalonians 5:24. How do passages like this affect your view of Jesus? Have you found him to be truthful, keeping his promises? Why or why not?
7. 1 Peter 2:21 says we are to walk like Christ. The Holy Spirit is causing a change from the inside-out so that we embody truthfulness in the same way as Jesus. But so often, our flesh continues to war against us. With that in mind, is there an oath or promise that you are failing to keep? Put another way, is there an area of your life that you are not walking in integrity? If so, what is it? How can your group help you?

PRAY TO CLOSE.

¹ Merriam-Webster.com