

COUNTER CULTURE

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT



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The Reliable Christian

Matthew 5:33–37



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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.’ ³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”

1. Watch out for religious excuses (5:33)

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.”



John 17:17

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”



Leviticus 19:12

You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.



Numbers 30:12

If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.



Ecclesiastes 5:4–5

⁴ When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. ⁵ It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.



2. Don't complicate your commitments (5:34–36)

³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

Isaiah 66:1

“Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool...”



2. Don't complicate your commitments (5:34–36)

³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

Matthew 23:16–22

¹⁶ “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ ¹⁷ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? ¹⁸ And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’

Matthew 23:16–22

¹⁹ You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? ²⁰ So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. ²¹ And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. ²² And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.”

2. Don't complicate your commitments (5:34–36)

³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

Hebrews 6:13–16

¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself,
¹⁴ saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” ¹⁵ And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.
¹⁶ For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.

3. Keep your word simple and true (5:37)

³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.



James 5:12

But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.



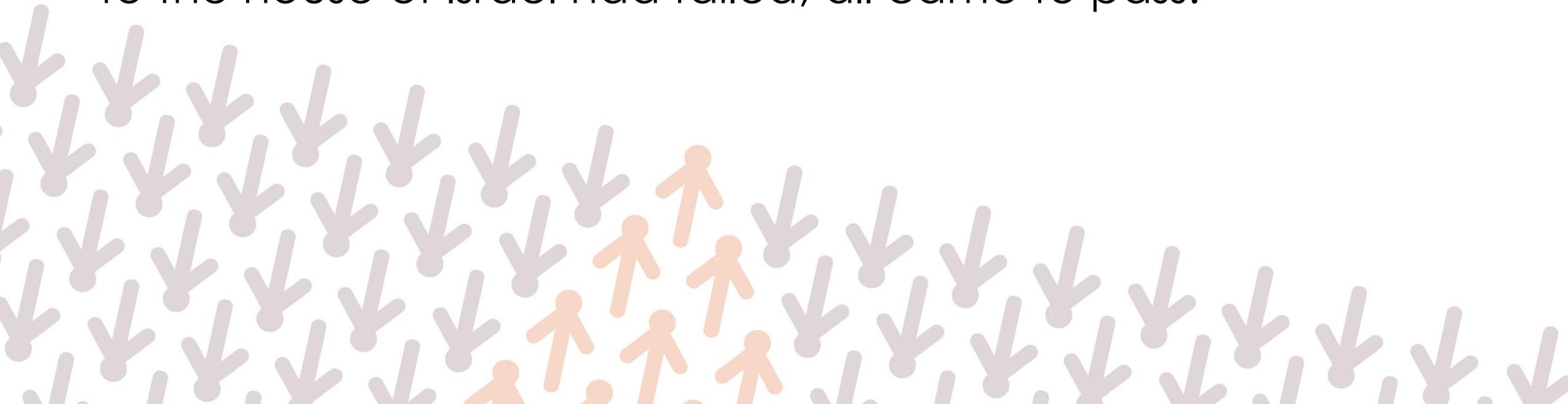
3. Keep your word simple and true (5:37)

³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.



Joshua 21:45

Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.



Hebrews 13:5–6

⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶ So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

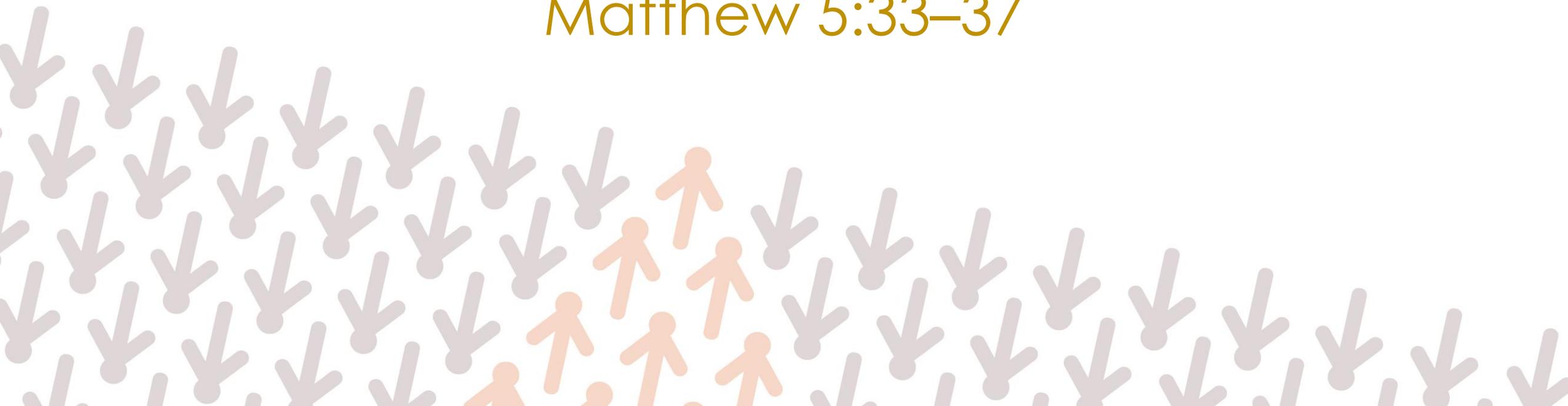
Psalm 15

- 1 O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
- 2 He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
and speaks truth in his heart;
- 3 who does not slander with his tongue
and does no evil to his neighbor,
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
- 4 in whose eyes a vile person is despised,
but who honors those who fear the Lord;
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
- 5 who does not put out his money at interest
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things shall never be moved.

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