



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW



Words for a New World

Matthew 5:33–37



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.’ 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. Slippery words (5:33–36)

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.”



Numbers 30:2

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.



Hebrews 6:16

For people swear by something greater than themselves,
and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.



Leviticus 19:12

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



Deuteronomy 23:21

If you make a vow to the LORD your God,
you shall not delay fulfilling it...



Exodus 20:7

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain...”



Matthew 23:16–18

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 23:19–22

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.”



1. Slippery words (5:33–36)

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.



Isaiah 66:1

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



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.



2. Solid words (5:37)

³⁴ “But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all... by heaven... or by the earth... or by Jerusalem... [or] by your head...

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



Proverbs 12:18

There is one who speaks rashly, like a piercing sword;
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.



Words for a New World

- ❖ God used words to make the world.



Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was created
by the word of God...



Words for a New World

- ❖ God used words to make the world.
- ❖ God gave his words to restore our world.



Joshua 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.



Matthew 7:24, 26

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock... ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.



Words for a New World

- ❖ God used words to make the world.
- ❖ God gave his words to restore our world.
- ❖ God uses our words to build a new world.



2 Corinthians 1:17–20

¹⁷ Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? ¹⁸ As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.



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