

The Worth of My Words

Matthew 5:33-37

The Law and the true intent of God:

"Again you have heard ..., but I say to you ..."

Three presuppositions:

- 1) Jesus – as divine _____ – truly knows the true _____ of Scripture. (His Word is infallible).
- 2) The Pharisees subverted _____ teaching to make it _____ and advantageous for them. (We tend to do the same.)
- 3) Jesus is most concerned with what is at the _____ of all our behaviors – our _____. (That is what this sermon is all about.)

The Old Covenant and truth telling:

Vows (or oaths) are useful _____ against our temptation to be _____ and _____.

Vows were _____, even _____ on occasion.

You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. (Deut. 10:20)

And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, 'As the Lord lives,' even as they taught my people to swear by Baal, then they shall be built up in the midst of my people. (Jer. 12:16-17)

Vows – once made* - were _____.

You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God ... (Lev. 19:12)

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. (Num 30:2)

But wait ... Pharisaical/rabbinic aberrations*:

- Oaths/vows are not binding if they do not include _____.
- Oaths/vows are only as significant as what was _____ by.

Result? The inevitable trivialization of _____ and a culture of _____.

Jesus closes the integrity loophole:

Just _____ vows altogether.

Why?

A few "what abouts?"

Conclusion: Truthfulness is the standard

Consider what keeps you from _____ communication and address the issue.

Commit to _____ with your words, so that no one needs to ask you for a _____.

Contemplate the goodness of Jesus who is ever _____.

Why this issue matters: 3 critical concerns

Jesus' correction of the Pharisees' teaching of the Law is indicative of a deeper, more insidious problem: _____ ...

All of us must guard ourselves from teachers and our own interpretations of Scripture that are _____ ...

_____ in speech matters. With our words we _____ or _____ God.