

**“Cross My Heart, Hope to Die”**  
Matthew 5:33-37

- I. A Disciple’s Characteristics: 8 Blessings (5:1-12)
- II. A Disciple’s Influence: 2 Metaphors (5:13-16)
- III. **A Disciple’s Righteousness** (5:17-48)

A. The Kingdom Standard: Must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees (5:20)

	SCRIBAL RELIGION	KINGDOM RIGHTEOUSNESS
Concept:	R = Outward conformity to God’s Law	R = Inward conformity to God’s character
Role of Law	Means of gaining God’s (and man’s) approval	1. Reveals God’s character 2. Exposes Man’s heart
Approach	1. Interpret the Law 2. Work harder	1. Explain Law’s intent 2. Invite repentance and faith 3. Transform hearts
Standard:	Comparison to Traditions	Perfect fulfillment of Law
Results	1. Focus on details 2. Promote comparison 3. Feeling of uncertainty	1. Focus on character 2. Promote compassion 3. Feeling of resolution
God’s Response	Resistance	Grace

B. Six Contrasting Illustrations (5:21-48)

- 1. Murder: Replace anger/abusive speech with reconciliation and nurture of persons and relationships
- 2. Adultery: Replace lust with purity of heart expressed in love that cares for (not uses) the other.
- 3. Divorce: Replace hard-hearted hostility with servant-hearted faithfulness.

**Illustration #4: Oaths**

**The Third Commandment – “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain”**  
**The Ninth Commandment – “You shall not bear false witness”**

**I. Jesus’ teaching re: oaths and promises**

- A. Tradition: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord’” (33).
  - 1. The Old Testament Law (Exod. 20:7; Lev. 19:12; Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21-23).
    - a. The nature of an oath: it is a voluntary statement in which the speaker calls upon God to \_\_\_\_\_ his vow and to \_\_\_\_\_ him if he breaks it.
    - b. Two kinds of oaths:
      - 1) Assertive: “I \_\_\_\_\_ it.”
      - 2) Promissory: “I \_\_\_\_\_ it.”
    - c. Emphasis of Law: If you make a vow, \_\_\_\_\_ it.
  - 2. Pharisaic Fallacy
    - a. Shifted emphasis away from the mandate to fulfill the vow to the \_\_\_\_\_ used in making it
    - b. “False swearing” meant \_\_\_\_\_ (a profane use of the divine name), not \_\_\_\_\_ (a dishonest pledging of one’s word).

B. Correction: "But I say to you . . ."

1. The formula is \_\_\_\_\_. Any vow is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Any formula is \_\_\_\_\_. Relying on \_\_\_\_\_ to evade the force of a promise is \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. Two questions

A. Why has God used oaths to confirm his promises? (Gen. 22:16-17; Heb. 6:13-17; Rom. 4:16-21)

1. An oath was used to underscore the \_\_\_\_\_ and reinforce the importance of what was said.
2. An oath was used to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ faith on the part of the beneficiary.

B. Was Jesus prohibiting all oath-taking?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ did not object when placed under oath by the High Priest (Mat. 26:63-64).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ placed himself under oath to emphasize the truth of his statement (Gal. 1:20; 2 Cor. 1:23).

## III. The Power of Promising (Lewis B. Smedes)

A. Human \_\_\_\_\_ rests on a promise (2 Pet. 3:13; Heb. 6:13-19; Rom. 4:18-25)

B. \_\_\_\_\_ comes alive in a promise

C. The power of promise makes human \_\_\_\_\_ possible.

## IV. Kingdom principles

A. Jesus' point: replace \_\_\_\_\_ evasion with \_\_\_\_\_ promise-keeping (\_\_\_\_\_).

B. In spite of Jesus' prohibitions against pharisaic corruptions of oaths, it can be beneficial for us to reinforce our most important commitments with a \_\_\_\_\_.

C. I need to understand that if I fail to keep a promise, \_\_\_\_\_ will pay a price for it. Some of the greatest injuries to relationships have come about because of perceived failure to keep a promise.

D. One practical way to become a better promise-keeper is to be a better promise-\_\_\_\_\_.

1. We must understand that not every expression of \_\_\_\_\_ is a promise. We must distinguish between promises and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Promise-makers need to be \_\_\_\_\_ about what they are promising. Much grief can be avoided by making sure that the giver and the receiver of a promise have the same \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We must guard against over-\_\_\_\_\_ ourselves – promising too \_\_\_\_\_ (more than we can realistically accomplish) to too \_\_\_\_\_ (over-reaching our resources). Don't make promises you \_\_\_\_\_.