



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

FAMILY DEVOS

Mean What You Say

Scripture: Matthew 5:33-37

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled”

For My Family:

Imagine that someone asks you if they can borrow some money. They promise they will pay you back, but they never do. Now imagine that they come back and ask you for more money. They promise they will really pay it back this time, but again they never do. Now imagine they come back a third time, and ask for money again. They say, “This is the last time, and I’m really *really* going to pay you back this time. I swear! Pinky promise!” Would you trust them? Why or why not? The more promises they make, the less you believe them because they have shown that they are not trustworthy. In Jesus’ day, people would swear by all kinds of things, like they do today. They would swear by heaven, earth, Jerusalem, even their own head! They would often do this to convince people they really meant what they said, even though they didn’t. Jesus warns that swearing like that comes from the evil one (the father of lies—John 8:44). It’s a sin!

In today’s passage, Jesus teaches His disciples that they don’t need to swear by anything or make promises to convince people that what they are saying is true. Instead, they just need to be trustworthy. They should say what they mean and mean what they say. In other words, citizens of God’s kingdom are supposed to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth by being trustworthy people. When they say we will be there, they are. When they tell their parents they will clean their room before dinner, they do. Good character outweighs every promise. Either people mean what they say, or they don’t.

But what’s the big deal? Is it really that bad to tell a little white lie? So what if I don’t clean my room up until after dinner, as long as it gets done? But that’s the point! Jesus is making it clear that there are a lot of things people don’t think are a big deal that are actually sin, and all sin is a big deal. All sin had to be paid for on the cross. Lies don’t belong in the kingdom of God. God is the God of truth! It is impossible for Him to lie (Hebrews 6:18). And when we show those around us that they can trust the things we say, it shows them that they can trust what God says. When God’s children show themselves to be trustworthy, it points people to their Father who is trustworthy (5:16).

Aren’t you thankful that God is trustworthy? He always means what He says. Are you trustworthy? Do you mean the things you say? What you say matters. It matters to those around you, and it matters to God. Don’t worry about making promises, just keep your word! Let your “yes” be “yes” and your “no” be “no.”

Questions for Young Children:

What does it mean to let your “yes” be “yes” and your “no” be “no”?

When we tell the truth, what does that teach others about God?

Does God ever lie?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Why does it matter if followers of Jesus swear or not?

How can we show others that we mean what we say?

What does today’s passage teach us about the kingdom of God?