

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

March 19, 2023 Lying - Let your yes be yes

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Previous Lessons

Foster Care Teens Personal Care Items We are still collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

This Week's Bible Verse

Matthew 5:33-37

Sunday



Lying - Let your yes be yes

Last Sunday, we talked about lying, what it can do to us, and what it can do to others. We talked about some celebrities who are known for telling the truth and others not so much. Some ruined their own lives with their lies and some ruined others lives. We said that not lying is so important to God that He included it in His "top ten list".

The world we live in is so full of people lying that people naturally just expect that you're lying even when you're not. People, and Satan, use lies to get others to doubt anything you say.

Not surprisingly, Jesus also had quite a bit to say about it. We looked at **Matthew 5:33-37** where Jesus talks about simply letting our yes be yes and letting our no be no.

Jesus was talking about not making vows or promises or swearing that you're telling the truth but just be a trustworthy person.

We said that when you say "I promise" or "I swear", what you're really saying is that sometimes you may not mean what you say but this time you are. So how can

33 "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made. 34 But I tell vou, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne;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 swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.³⁷ All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one

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they trust anything you say, ever?

Jesus says to just let our yes be yes and when people know your character as one of always being honest there is never a need to say "I swear" or "I promise".

Jesus also said that lying comes from Satan, the father of all lies. Lying is Satan's primary weapon against us. In the very beginning, in the Garden of Eden, Satan used lies to cause Eve and Adam to doubt God. He continues to do the same thing today not only causing us to doubt God but causing others to doubt what we say regarding God.

When Jesus says to be a trustworthy person, He doesn't mean you can't say "maybe" or "I don't know". It's not about opinions, feelings, jokes, or surprises. It also doesn't mean you have to tell everyone all about your business. Some things don't need to be shared with everyone and that's okay.

What Jesus is saying is not about just following rules but that people ought to trust our words because of the way we live. The Bible tells us that our words are powerful but if we don't speak the truth, we weaken all the other words that we use.

We said that even seemingly meaningless "little white lies" can slowly chip away and weaken the trust of the people closest to us just as seemingly meaningless acts of truthfulness can help build a character of being a trustworthy person.

Unfortunately, honesty is a rare thing (that's just the way Satan wants it), and it's not easy to be truthful all the time. But, it's one of the things that Jesus said will make us better Christians and have better lives in this world. It's part of our light that Jesus told us to shine for others to see Him through our actions.

So, have your yes be yes and your no be no. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Choose to be truthful and you'll have an abundant life!

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