

Kingdom Mindset
Matthew 5:33-42
Shocking Statements of Christ
(Sermon on the Mount, Part 2)

³³ “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ ³⁴ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰ If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also. ⁴¹ And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.”

Today marks week Five in our Series **The Shocking Statements of Jesus - 2nd Series** within the Sermon on the Mount series.

A) Today’s shocking statements might be the hardest of all! – **Why do I say that?**

B) Today gets down to real life – Everyday life- Jesus pinpoints **OUR WORDS**, **our TIME** and **OUR POSSESSIONS**.

C) See three things - **THE need for**

- ❖ #1 Integrity in our Words
- ❖ #2 Grace in our Attitudes and Actions
- ❖ #3 Generosity in our Possessions

#1 Integrity in our Words – V.37 – Yes be Yes and No be no!

A) **Webster Dictionary**- Integrity: The steadfast adherence to moral values and truth.

B) Integrity is something that seems to be sorely lacking in America Today{ Politics – trust
1) Sports – Juicing – News agencies – spin agenda

C) Several years ago Authors James Patterson and Peter Kim authored the book **The Day America told the truth:**

D) What would Americans do for \$10 million dollars?

- 25% Would abandon their entire family
- 25% Would abandon their church
- 23% Would become prostitutes for a week or more
- 16% Would give up their American citizenships
- 16% Would leave their spouses
- 10% Would withhold testimony and let a murderer go free
- 7% Would murder a stranger
- 3% Would put their children up for adoption

E) The book was a sad commentary on America’s lack of Integrity!

Four high school boys were late to their morning class one day missing the scheduled mid-term exam.

A) They entered the classroom and told their teacher they were late due to a flat tire.

B) The teacher smiled and told them it was too bad they were late because they had missed the mid-term exam that morning.

1) But she was willing to let them make it up. She gave them each a piece of paper and a pencil and sent them to the four corners of the room.

2) Then she told them they would pass if they could answer just one question: **Which tire was flat?**

The great wall of China is considered one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world.

A) It was built because the Chinese were so insecure of their enemies on the north side that they built that Great Wall

B) It was so high they knew no one could climb over it and so thick that nothing could break it down.

1) Then they settled back to enjoy their security.

C)But during the first 100 years of the wall's existence, China was invaded 3 times.

1)And not once did the enemy break down the wall or climb over its top.

D)How did the enemy get in? Bribed a gatekeeper

The Chinese were so busy relying upon the great wall of stone, that they forgot to teach their children about integrity.

A)Integrity for their country, culture, and each other.

B)Now we don't build Great Walls – we build Systems to deal with our lack of Integrity.

1)Instead of just relying on strong Character –

C)Business manuals are designed to make up for Human deficiency of Integrity.

D)Back in the 1900's people would make long lasting Business deals that were based entirely on a HANDSHAKE.

1)TODAY 20 page contracts and lawyers

Well in Israel in the time of Jesus – IT WAS OATHS!

A)The Practice of Oaths Dates back to OT Where God provided for making oaths by His name

B)A clear description of an Oath is given in the book of Hebrews:

❖ **“For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute” Hebrews: (6:16).**

Bb)The idea of swearing by SOMEONE greater than themselves – mainly God gave greater credibility to what was said!

C)But People would make an Oath swearing by God only in matters of great importance.

1)Example: Marriage Vows

2)Abraham confirmed his promises to the king of Sodom (Gen. 14:22–24) and to Abimelech (21:23–24) with oaths in the name of God.

D)Even God made an Oath to Abraham – He swore by Himself – none greater – He would fulfill his promise to Abraham.

So the Problem that Jesus had was not with taking Oaths in General but with The Perversion of Oaths

A)First of all the religious leaders in Israel had ok'd the taking of Oaths for Frivolous reasons.

B)No longer was it for special important things like marriage vows – any old thing – Take an Oath.

1)We do that today too: **“I swear to God.”** – Really?

C)I swear on a Stack of Bibles - Or if I be lying I be dying -

1)**Or I swear on my mamas grave** (Didn't know your mom passed away.) She hasn't.....

D)Or this one: **Cross my heart and hope to die – stick a needle in my eye!**

Israel had their own phrases: **If you swore by God the Creator it was Binding –**

A)But if you swore by any part of creation: the heavens, the earth, the temple, your own head it was less binding

B)These were their loop holes for being deceptive. – Not swearing by God because I am accountable for that.

Bb)But I will **swear by the temple** – this guy is religious he will like that

C)**Swear by my own head** - (Their version of Cross my heart....in my eye)

D)It was almost like our version of Promising but keeping our fingers crossed.

E)It was Evasive Swearing - which in actuality – was Taking an oath became a way to lie.

Recall Jesus started this whole conversation back in V.20 by saying Shocking Statement #1 Your righteousness must exceed.....

A)Not shocking to us – We have been taught Hypocrisy – but in Jesus' day they were the Standard of righteousness

B) But they had adopted this whole practice using **Oaths that allowed for them to be DECEPTIVE.**

C) **Jesus' point here:** We need to have integrity in our words- **IF YOU DO!** -You **WILL NOT** need to Swear at all.

1) Simply PUT - Let your Yes be Yes and your No be No!

Jesus was teaching that our conversation should be so honest, and our character so true, that we would not need "crutches" to get people to believe us.

A) Words depend on character, and oaths cannot compensate for a poor character.

Proverbs 6:17-19

These six *things* the LORD hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:

- 17 A proud look, A lying tongue,
Hands that shed innocent blood,
- 18 A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that are swift in running to evil,
- 19 A false witness *who* speaks lies,
And one who sows discord among brethren.

B) Isn't it ironic that 3 of the seven things the Lord says that he hates have to do with **OUR WORDS & TWO WITH LYING!**

C) **WE NEED to Remember:** Truth has no degrees or shades.

1) **A half truth is a whole lie**, and a white lie is really black. God has never had any standard lower than absolute truthfulness.

THE 2ND KINGDOM MINDSET JESUS DEALS WITH HERE IS

#2 Need Grace in our Attitudes and Actions v.38-39,41

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, '*An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*' ³⁹ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴¹ And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

Interesting this is one of the most familiar parts of the Bible –

A) Often hear people using the phrases – **Eye for an eye tooth for tooth. Turn the other cheek – go the extra mile**

B) Unbelievers know these verses **BUT WHAT IS JESUS SAYING.**

C) **Background on an Eye for an Eye....tooth for a tooth.**

1) The original law was a fair one; it kept people from forcing the offender to pay a greater price than the offense deserved.

D) It also prevented people from taking personal revenge.

E) **Someone stole your chicken – I am going to BURN DOWN HIS HOUSE.**

1) No you deserved Chickens – Laws of retribution

Now it is important to note that the illustration that Jesus gives here has to do with **Personal Dignity – not National protection.**

A) Leaders of nations have an obligation to protect their people!

B) Jesus is not advocating here that we shouldn't defend ourselves in the event of a personal assault. –

1) Someone breaks into your home. Ok to Protect

2) Someone is beating you up – Pastor's Son – **DO THAT AGAIN.**

C) **THE ISSUE HERE IS PERSONAL DIGNITY – the Language in the text makes this very clear.**

Among Jews, a slap or other striking in the face was among the most demeaning and contemptuous of acts,

A) It was considered an attack on one's honor and was considered **a terrible indignity.**

B) **RIGHT CHEEK** – meant it was with the left hand – wasn't meant to hurt as it was to Humiliate.

C) **If I were to give someone a RIGHT CROSS – Christian punch** – That would hurt you physically.

1) But If I slapped you with my left hand – **not hurt as much physically**

2) **But in that culture – it was the ultimate in Humiliation.**

Jesus is saying: Someone insults you – maligns you - don't try to get back at them. – Just take it-let God be your Judge!

A) Jesus is admonishing us to be Selfless instead of Selfish!

B)When **Self-interest dominates our lives, justice is replaced by VENGEANCE!**

C)And selfish overreaction is the natural response of sinful human nature.

Our natural reaction is always to **GET MORE THAN EVEN** – because human vengeance is never satisfied with just Justice.

A)It wants a pound of flesh for every ounce of offense- RIGHT?

B)THAT IS ONE REASON why God restricts vengeance to Himself

1) Vengeance is mine says the Lord!

C)Jesus is advocating – let it go – turn the other cheek –

1)Forgive and move on – Don't be destroyed by it

Another natural reaction Jesus attacks here – that is our tendency to always to do the bear minimum!

A)That is where V.41 comes in. Again shocking

B)It was written into Roman law that if a Roman soldier tapped you on the shoulder with his spear – you were obligated to carry his burden 1 mile.

C)Notice Jesus – expands this: If ANYONE – not just a Roman – TALKING ANYONE – ask you to carry his burden.

1)Carry it TWO! – GO THE EXTRA MILE

Jesus is admonishing us to live like Him – He turned the other cheek – when he was reviled He reviled not!

A)Jesus went the Extra Mile – Joyfully – For the Joy set before Him he endured the cross – despising the shame - Extra Mile “Father Forgive.....”

B)That is HARD PASTOR ROB – you are right – More than hard - It is impossible in our flesh

Bb)But Jesus is always wanting to move us from reacting in the natural to **RESPONDING IN THE SUPERNATURAL.**

C)This Takes us back to the first Beatitude: Still the same sermon – Week 11 but it was all in one setting – same context.

1)Recall first Beatitude 5:3 **Blessed are the Poor in Spirit**

D)Recall being Poor in Spirit – spoke of our utter dependency upon God for everything!

1)**Desperate and Dependent Life Style**
The beatitude contained a promise

A)Promise: For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven – Remember – Kingdom Resources – Jesus supplies us with his Spirit what we need to be different

B)If you walk out of here today thinking – Ok – I am going to be more like Jesus – FAIL MISERABLY

C)**You say: Lord I can't do that – Help me – fill me – NOW WE ARE TALKING**

1)He will begin to transform you! – Instead of reacting in the flesh – Responding in Spirit

Think of it this way: If I were to say to you – You like Basketball - here is what we are going to do.

A)Give you a year off of work – spend all your time watching videos of LeBron James – A year to be personally trained

B)8-10 hrs everyday – Watching film, personal Gym, I want you to shoot like LeBron – dribble like LeBron – **Pass like LeBron – chew gum like...**

1)I want you two to be thick as thieves – I want you to be like peanut butter and Jelly.

C)At the end of the year are you going to be a better basketball player/ but are you going to be like LeBron? –

1)NO why? You would say that is just not in me!

You and me being like Jesus is not in us either!

A)Jesus is not trying to make you a better version of yourself – After a year I am better – quit doing this and that.

B) You can become better by seeking to imitate Jesus – but Jesus is wanting to do something more for you

C) Jesus is seeking to make YOU more like Himself !

1) Jesus doesn't want MORE FROM YOU – He wants MORE FOR YOU

D) Transform you into His image so that when others look at you what they see is the fingerprint of God!

1) That God has been there and the TRANSFORMATION IS SUPERNATURAL!

A few things to note about the 2nd Mile:

❖ The 2nd Mile is a lonely Road

A) Most people don't live that way! – Bear minimum

1) It is a lonely Road – 2nd mile –

C) But it can also be contagious (Join you on it)

❖ The 2nd mile never ends

A) Done enough – turned the cheek enough

A coast guard crew were summoned on a stormy night to rescue survivors from a sinking vessel. One member of the crew was fearful – he said to the captain – “We'll never get back – the Captain replied “our orders aren't to come back only to go.”

❖ The 2nd mile leads to Joy!

A) The first mile was required by law but the 2nd mile was continued Voluntarily.

B) Joyful heart is what happens when we move in our Christian walks from – I HAVE TO –

1) TO I GET TO!!!!

❖ The 2nd mile leads to rewards

A) God is not unjust – He will not forget your labor of love

B) Reward for even giving a glass of cold water to someone in his name!

❖ The 2nd mile is different for each one.

A) All running in a Race – but it is different for each of us.

B) Your 2nd mile might look different from mine.

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#3 Be Generous with our Possessions V.40,42

40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. 41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

❖ We should be willing to sacrifice personal comfort in order to help someone else.

Most people in Jesus' time only had one coat – used for a blanket at night

A) Someone in need – Let them have it !

B) Sacrifice personal comfort for the aid of someone in need.

C) Now this doesn't mean that we are to respond to every foolish request made to us.

1) Sometimes people take what you give them and use it for the wrong things – **GOOD STEWARDS**

D) Jesus' point here is being willing to sacrifice personal comfort – Sacrifice – a personal possession in order to bless someone else

The Example of Jesus:

A) Left Heaven – Earth – Concealed Deity – made Himself subject to the Father

B) Time for the Cross -

“Lord let this cup pass from me – not my will your will be done.”

23 Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ~ Luke 9:23

C) Cross? Burden – Mother-in-law – Boss –

1) No the cross was an instrument of death that brought life to others

Paul learned to live this way:

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20