

# **Matthew 5:33-37**

November 11, 2018 – Rev. Rick Lyon

## ***To Tell The Truth***

### **Intro**

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### **Who Gets Lied to the Most**

- 1. Parents – 86%**
- 2. Friends – 75%**
- 3. Siblings – 73%**
- 4. Spouses – 69%**

### **Where the Most Lies are Seen**

- 1. Dating Sites 90%**
- 2. Resumes – 40%**
- 3. 12% of adults admit to telling a lie often or sometimes.**
- 4. 13% of patients lie to their doctor.**
- 5. 32% of patients stretched the truth to their doctor. (*Note the different wording*)**
- 6. 30% lie about their diet and exercise regiments.**
- 7. Lying is more common in phone calls than in face to face conversations.**
- 8. 10% of lies are just exaggerations while 60% are outright deceptions.**
- 9. 70% of liars claim they'd tell their lies again.**

### **The most common reasons for lying are:**

- 1. To impress people/make ourselves look good**
  - 2. To get out of trouble**
  - 3. For convenience**
- 9 in 10 middle schoolers admit to regularly cheating on homework**
  - The average person can only spot a lie 50% of the time.**

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## **1. The Old Testament's Teaching Concerning Truth and Promises**

**Deuteronomy 6:13** - You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.

**Genesis 14:22-23** - Abram said to the king of Sodom, "With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, that I'll accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal."

David made a vow: **Psalms 132** - David swore an oath to the LORD, and vowed to the Mighty One of Israel: "I won't enter my house or go to my bed... until I find a place to build a house for the LORD, a sanctuary for the Mighty One of Israel."

**Genesis 22:16** - "This is what the LORD says... I swear by My own name that I will certainly bless you."

**Lev. 19:12**: "Don't swear falsely by My name and so profane the name of your God."

**Numbers 30:2**: "When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said."

**Deuteronomy 23:21**: "If you make a vow to the LORD your God, don't be slow to pay it, for the LORD your God will certainly demand it of you and you'll be guilty of sin."

**Kent Hughes**: Somewhere along the line some rabbis began to teach that an oath wasn't binding if it didn't include God's name or imply it. Therefore, if you swore by your life or someone else's life or by some object, but didn't mention or allude to the name of God, you weren't bound. The Mishna (book of Rabbinical traditions) devotes one whole section to an elaborate discussion of when oaths are binding and when they aren't... It became common practice to convince another that you were telling the truth (while lying). For instance, one rabbi taught that if one swore *by* Jerusalem one wasn't bound, but if one swore *toward* Jerusalem, it was binding.

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## **2. Jesus' Teaching Concerning Truth and Promises.**

**Matthew 5:34-36** - "But I say to you, don't take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it's the throne of God, or by the earth, for it's His footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it's the city of the great King. And don't take an oath by your head, for you can't make one hair white or black.

**William Barclay**: Here's a great eternal truth: light can't be divided into compartments, some, where God is involved and others where He isn't involved. There can't be one kind of language in church and another kind of language in the home. There can't be one kind of standard of conduct in the church and another standard of conduct in the business world. The fact is that God doesn't need to be invited into certain departments of life and kept out of others; He's everywhere, all through life, and every activity of life. He hears not only the words which are spoken in His name, He hears all words... We'll regard all promises as sacred if we remember that all promises are made in the presence of God.

**Matthew 26:63-64** - The high priest said to Jesus, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you're the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus replied, "It is as you have said."

***"Trust is a tower, built stone by stone, lies take stones from the bottom."***

***"Tell a lie once and all your truths become questionable."***

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#### **1. Don't make careless promises.**

**Proverbs 20:25** - Don't trap yourself by making a rash promise to God and only later counting the cost.

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#### **2. Follow through on your promises.**

**Psalms 15** - [David] “Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others; who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the LORD; who *keeps an oath even when it hurts*, and doesn't change their mind; ... Whoever does these things will never be shaken.”

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#### **3. Honor God by telling the truth.**

**1 Peter 2:12** - Conduct yourselves with such honor among the Gentiles that, though they slander you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and *glorify God* on the day He visits us.

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#### **4. Respect others by telling the truth.**

**Jesus** - "Do to others what you would like them to do to you." (Mt. 7:12)

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