

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, May 23, 2021
Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew
Message 33. You Shall Not Bear False Witness – Matthew 5:33-37
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Introduction: “Righteousness, the one word that sums up Christian living.” (MLJ) In Matthew 5:21-48, Jesus uses 6 illustrations that demonstrate common principles in the midst of particular commandments that prove that He did not come to give a new law, but new life! The contrast in these illustrations is not the Law given by Moses vs. the Law given by Christ. It is a contrast of the Pharisees’ false interpretation of the Law given by Moses and the true interpretation of the Law given by our Lord Himself. Jesus here is saying, “THIS is what I gave Moses.” The fourth contrast between the Pharisees’ false interpretation of the law involves the commandment, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

- I. The Law Narrowed – vs. 33
 - A. External vs. Internal
 - 1. “I Swear to God”, or “I Swear on the Life of...”
 - 2. Perjury Prohibited – Exodus 20:7, 16; Lev. 19:12; Jer. 9:5
 - 3. The Heart is Deceitful – Jer. 17:9; Matt. 15:18-19
 - B. Cheapening Truth
 - 1. Unbelievable
 - 2. Abusing Oaths
 - 3. Lies Sworn to by Less Significant Things
 - a. Life – 1 Sam. 1:26
 - b. Health – Psa. 15:4
 - c. King – 1 Sam. 17:55
- II. The Law Applied – vs. 34-36
 - A. To Swear or Not To Swear
 - 1. Oaths are Commanded - Deut. 6:13; 10:20; Isa. 65:16; Jer. 4:1-2
 - 2. Paul’s Oaths – Rom. 9:1; 2 Cor. 1:23; 11:10
 - 3. God Swears – Gen. 9:9-11; Luke 1:68, 73; Acts 2:27-31; Psa. 132:11; Heb. 6:17-19
 - 4. Jesus Replied to a Solemn Oath – Matt. 26:63
 - B. Oaths and Ordinary Conversation – Matt. 23:16-22
 - 1. Foolish – making something serious worthless
 - 2. Blind – missing the point
 - 3. Who believes someone who always says, “I swear”?
- III. The Law Obeyed – vs. 37
 - A. Say What You Mean; Mean What You Say – Yes, No
 - B. Do Not Lie to One Another – Col. 3:9; Prov. 12:22
 - 1. Honor Your Word – Eph. 4:11-16, 25
 - a. Marriage Vows
 - b. Promises
 - c. Contracts, Covenants, Commitments
 - 2. Trustworthiness – Titus 2:1-8
 - C. Lord Willing – James 4:13-17
 - D. Lying and the Nature of God – Psa. 25:10; 33:4; 100:5; 117:2; 119:160
 - 1. Father – Titus 1:2
 - 2. Son – John 14:6
 - 3. Holy Spirit – John 16:13
 - E. Tongue Control

Cross References

Exodus 20:7

7 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Exodus 20:16

16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Leviticus 19:12

12 And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

Jeremiah 9:5

5 Everyone will deceive his neighbor, And will not speak the truth; They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves to commit iniquity.

Jeremiah 17:9

9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

Matthew 15:18-19

18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

1 Samuel 1:26

26 And she said, “O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the Lord.

Psalms 15:4

4 In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

1 Samuel 17:55

55 When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is this youth?” And Abner said, “As your soul lives, O king, I do not know.”

Deuteronomy 6:13

13 You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.

Deuteronomy 10:20

20 You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name.

Isaiah 65:16

16 So that he who blesses himself in the earth Shall bless himself in the God of truth; And he who swears in the earth Shall swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My eyes.

Jeremiah 4:1-2

4 “If you will return, O Israel,” says the Lord, “Return to Me; And if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, Then you shall not be moved. 2 And you shall swear, ‘The Lord lives,’ In truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; The nations shall bless themselves in Him, And in Him they shall glory.”

Romans 9:1

9 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,

2 Corinthians 1:23

23 Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth.

2 Corinthians 11:10

10 As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia.

Genesis 9:9-11

9 “And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. 11 Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

Luke 1:68, 73

68 “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people,
73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:

Acts 2:27-31

27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’
29 “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

Psalms 132:11

11 The Lord has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: “I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.

Hebrews 6:17-19

17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

Matthew 26:63

63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!”

Matthew 23:16-22

16 “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.’ 17 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? 18 And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.’ 19 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? 20 Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. 21 He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. 22 And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

Colossians 3:9

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

Proverbs 12:22

22 Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:25

25 Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.

Titus 2:1-8

2 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: 2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent

in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. 6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

James 4:13-17

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Psalm 25:10

10 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Psalm 33:4

4 For the word of the Lord is right, And all His work is done in truth.

Psalm 100:5

5 For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

Psalm 117:2

2 For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

Psalm 119:160

160 The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

Titus 1:2

2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 16:13

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.