



All you need to say is simply

'YES' or 'NO'

**...anything beyond this
comes from the evil one.**

Matthew 5:37

THE QUESTIONS OF LIFE

- **The Sermon on the Mount is the core of all Jesus teaching.**
- **It provides the answer to the 2 big questions of life, “What is a good life?” and “Who is a good person?”**
- **A life built on the foundation of Jesus teaching in the Sermon on the Mount will be both of these.**
- **It is about living in the kingdom of God, under the rule of God, Jesus living His life out through us.**
- **We enter that kingdom now. A spiritual kingdom that affects the physical!**

The “Good Person”

- **Matt.5:21-7:27** - The second question Jesus deals with in the sermon concerns who is truly a “good person.”
- **Who has the kind of goodness found in God himself? Who has the family likeness between God and his children?**
- **In Matt. 5:20-7:27, Jesus deals with the guts of human existence: raging anger, contempt, hatred, obsessive lust, divorce, verbal manipulation, revenge, slapping, suing, cursing, coercing, and begging. It is the stuff of soap operas and the daily news—and real life.**
- **He wraps up the description by telling us the standard of goodness he has set is the perfection of God. Matt.5:48**

Understanding The Talk On The Hill

- While some think it is unattainable, it is available to all people, now.
- How are we to understand this passage?
 1. We must read it as a sermon
 2. We must see that Jesus has one main theme he is developing through-out the message
 3. We must place it in the context of the rest of his teaching and purpose
- This is not a random collection of “pearls of wisdom”
- These are not new “laws”, but illustrations of kingdom living

Values Of A Transformed Heart

In Matt.5:21-48 he gives us 6 contrasts of how the religious leaders manipulated the law and how God looks at issues.

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Old Rightness</u>	<u>Kingdom Heart Rightness</u>
1. Irritation with one's associates, (vv. 21–26)	No murder.	Intense desire to be of help. No anger or contempt.
2. Sexual attraction. (vv. 27–30)	No intercourse.	No looking with the intent of lustful coveting
3. Unhappiness with marriage partner. (vv. 31–32)	If you divorce, give "pink slip."	No divorce, as then practiced.

Values Of A Transformed Heart

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Old Rightness</u>	<u>Kingdom Heart Rightness</u>
4. Wanting someone to believe something, (vv. 33–37)	Keep vows or oaths made to convince.	Only say how things are or are not. No verbal manipulation.
5. Being personally injured. (vv. 38–42)	Inflict exactly the same injury on the offender.	Don't harm, but help, the one who has damaged you
6. Having an enemy, (vv. 43–48)	Hate your enemy.	Love and bless your enemy, as the heavenly Father does.

Values Of A Transformed Heart

- **Matt.5:33-37**
- **What does Jesus mean by vs.37?**
- **33- sounds good, sounds right. Where is the problem?**
- **Ex.20:7 – You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. What does that mean?**
- **Most obvious is to use the name of God as a curse.**
- **Lev. 19:12 The third commandment also forbids empty or false oaths. Making a vow you have no intention of keeping. (Notice this is in the context of loving your neighbour.)**

Values Of A Transformed Heart

- Does that mean we should never take an oath?
 - Quakers will not take an oath in court.
 - God gave Abraham an oath Gen.22:16; Johnathan took an oath from David 1Sam.20; Rom.9:1 Paul makes an oath
1. God's name is never to be used as a curse word or careless exclamation!
 2. Oaths are not for everyday language.
 3. An oath should only be given in special, solemn ceremony where it adds to the significance of what is being done.
- What was the problem in 5:37?

Values Of A Transformed Heart

- **As with divorce in chp.19, Matthew explains the bigger issue in 23:16-22.**
- **Creating loopholes to manipulate people into thinking they were committing to things they had no intention of doing!**
- **Problem? Using God's name or temple in vain, to bolster their credibility, lie to people.**
- **Matt.5:33 – Sounds pretty clear, but they had carefully crafted loopholes to justify not keeping the law.**
- **Jesus is simply calling us to be people of integrity. Let your yes be yes and your no, no!**

Values Of A Transformed Heart

- **As the passage in Leviticus was teaching us, this is about our relationship with our neighbor.**
- **Truth in our speaking, is loving our neighbor.**
- **What does Jesus mean by vs.37?**
- **Anything beyond a simple “yes” or “no” comes from evil?**
- **If we can’t, or don’t want to give a “yes” or “no,” are hiding something? Are we telling “half the truth”?**
- **Are we telling a “white lie”?**
- **“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Col.3:17**