

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)

Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

True believers are not physically in the kingdom yet, but we are kingdom people destined for the kingdom and are called to live according to kingdom ethics. In fact, the Bible goes so far as to assume that we WILL live this way – not perfectly but certainly directionally in our lives.

Slide # 2

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NKJV)

9 Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom** of God? **Do not be deceived**. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners **will inherit the kingdom** of God.

11 And such **were** some of you. **But** you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Those of us truly headed for the kingdom have had our lives changed. We have been changed from the inside out by the grace of God. We have been saved and changed by grace through faith in Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

In Matthew 5:20 Christ said that unless our righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and pharisees we will by no means enter the kingdom. What He meant is that we must know a righteousness in our lives that works from the inside out. As Paul said we have been washed – spiritually cleansed – we have been positionally set apart (sanctified) which then demonstrates itself in the life. This is the fruit of true repentance called for by both John the Baptist and Jesus.

The scribes and Pharisees had an outward form of righteousness. It was all about EXTERNAL standards. But Christ emphasized an INTERNAL change of heart (called repentance) that then works its way out in the life.

The scribes and Pharisees knew what the law said and they tried to go by the “letter” of the law all the while missing the deeper intention of the law which relates to motives and the heart. The doing of the law was to be governed by a heart that desires to obey and as we study further in the NT we find this is made possible by the empowerment of the Spirit.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ showed that “kingdom living” lives out this deeper dimension of the law which is what He came to bring about or as He said which He came “to fulfill.”

In chapter 5 there are six areas that the scribes and Pharisees had a legalistic external code of righteousness for and yet missed the deeper intent of the law. In each case Christ brings correction about which presents an even higher standard of “kingdom ethics”.

Slide # 3

Six Sections – Six Topics

- 1) Murder/Anger – Mt. 5:21-26
- 2) Adultery – Mt. 5:27-30
- 3) Divorce – Mt. 5:31-32
- **4) Oaths – Mt. 5:33-37**
- 5) Vengeance – Mt. 5:38-42
- 6) Love for Enemies – Mt. 5:43-48

Speaking generally, we have noted that at the heart of murder is anger; at the heart of adultery is lusting, and at the heart of divorce is unfaithfulness. In each case the religious Jews considered only the outward externals, but Jesus goes deeper showing there is a HEART problem in each case.

Today we will consider the issue of oaths or vows. It is fitting that the emphasis on marriage and divorce is immediately followed by this emphasis on vows. In human relations, other than our relationship with God Himself, there is nothing more sacred than marriage vows.

Before I move forward on the issue of oaths let me make a few postscript remarks regarding the issue of marriage.

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Marriage of two believers – (The Lord)

(Mt. 5:31-32; 19:1-9; 1 Cor. 7:10-11)

- No divorce and remarriage.
- Only exception is sexual unfaithfulness.
- Apart from the one exception if they do divorce, they can either remain single or be reconciled.

Slide # 5

Mixed Marriage – Unbeliever & Believer (Paul)

(1 Cor. 7:12-16).

- Stay married if unbeliever agreeable.
- If unbeliever leaves then the believer is no longer bound.

Slide # 6

Saved People Previously Married but Now Single (Paul)

(*Unmarried* (divorced -cf. 1 Cor. 7:11) and *Widows*)

- *Go from where you are at (New Creation in Christ) – 2 Cor. 5:17.
- *If you can it is good to remain single (1 Cor. 7:8).
- * It is better to marry than to burn with passion (1 Cor. 7:9).

Last week I underscored that before God marriage is a covenant relationship and not merely a contractual agreement (Mal. 2:14).

So the question is raised – what if a couple is just married by the state? Is that a covenant relationship? Is that a real marriage in they eyes of God? Well, as ordained by God involving one man and one woman – the answer is yes.

God has ordained human government. Now we don't recognize the perversions of human government that are in contradiction of Scripture, but insofar as it aligns with Scripture we do recognize its regulating authority.

When it comes to the state, the governing authorities recognize both legal marriage and legal divorce. When the state recognizes someone as legally married then the whole of society recognizes a marriage commitment has taken place. And in order to get divorced there also has to be a legal procedure. Thus, both marriage and divorce are handled in conjunction with the governing authorities as ordained by God (cf. Rom. 13:1-7).

Paul in addressing the largely Gentile Church at Corinth recognized all those legally married in keeping with Roman law were legally married in the eyes of God. Upon conversion he did not require some special additional ceremony conducted by the Church. When we become Christians, we recognize the significance of the marriage bond in a way we did not necessarily do so before. None the less – the reality of marriage before God stands. As Christians we are now called to live accordingly.

And finally, death breaks the marriage bond.

Slide # 7

Romans 7:2 (NKJV)

2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband **as long as he lives**. But if the husband dies, **she is released from the law of her husband**.

Matthew 22:30 (NKJV)

30 For in the resurrection they **neither marry nor are given in marriage**, but are like angels of God in heaven.

Husband-wife relationships will not be destroyed, they will take on a new meaning. We will no longer live in the same married state as we do here upon the earth. However we should not assume this means deprivation. We will retain memory of our loved ones and enjoy fellowship with them. – **Don Stewart**

But as long as both are living, the marriage vows of a married couple are binding. This is why in the marriage ceremony we always say, “Till death do you part”. This brings us to the issue of oaths or vows.

Matthew 5:33–37 (NKJV)

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.’

Once again, this is basically a summary of what the Mosaic Law said (cf. Ex. 20:7; Lev. 19:2; Num. 30:2; Deut. 5:11; 6:3; 22:21-23).

Slide # 8

Leviticus 19:12 (NKJV)

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

To swear falsely here is the idea of making a false vow or vowing something that you then don’t carry through on. Today the offense of willfully telling an untruth in a court after having taken an oath or affirmation is called “perjury”.

In context here is the deal. The Jews were afraid to use the name of God in the making of oaths because they understood it was totally binding. Therefore, they came up with forms of “oath” making that were not so binding (at least in their minds). These kinds of oaths supposedly had “loopholes”. In the greater context of Scripture, I don’t think Jesus goes on to forbid all “oaths” but He does get to the heart of the matter in dealing with oath abuse. This is the real issue Jesus is dealing with here.

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Jesus is here dealing with the “crossed fingers” mentality. He is showing that any legitimate vow is binding before God. There are no loopholes.

34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne;

The first thing we should note is that when Jesus says, "do not swear at all" it is qualified by the common practice of the Jews at this time. That is swearing by heaven, swearing by the earth, swearing by Jerusalem, or swearing by your head.

Note that God is left out! Biblical oaths were made in the name of God.

Slide # 10

Deuteronomy 6:13 (NKJV)

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

And that was the point. The Jews were trying to get around swearing in God's name realizing that to swear falsely in God's name called for divine punishment. So, they thought they had figured out a way around it in swearing by these other things.

As we consider the whole counsel of God it does not appear that Christ was prohibiting all swearing, and by swearing we are referring in context to the making of a binding oath before God. But note the following:

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- God Himself swears oaths (Heb. 6:13).
- Jesus spoke under oath (Mt. 26:63-64).
- Paul made oaths (Rom. 1:9, etc.).

This would indicate there are some qualifiers in place here and that Jesus is addressing the ABUSE of oaths as commonly practiced by the Jews.

The sense is that there is a place for oaths but they are always to be made in God's name and there are no loopholes. The sense is that in common everyday speech we should not need to use oaths because we should not need to do so. We should not need to strength what we are saying with an oath each step of the way. And one does swear it is binding!

Oaths should be reserved for special situations such as in a court of law where people don't know you; or in the case of a wedding commitment which is a special and unique occasion.

But there is no place for playing “word games” with oaths. That is the point! There is no place for the making of this kind of an oath – for the kind of oaths ordained by the scribes and Pharisees.

There is a fascinating passage to consider in light of Jesus saying, “let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’”. Paul in defending his motives combines this emphasis and in the same breath uses the language of an oath.

Slide # 12

2 Corinthians 1:17–18 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, when I was planning this, did I do it lightly? Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh, that with me there should be Yes, Yes, and No, No?

18 But as God is faithful, **our word to you was not Yes and No.**

2 Corinthians 1:23 (NKJV)

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

Did Paul violate the teaching of Jesus by invoking an oath to confirm the solemnity and truthfulness of his statement? (cf. Gal. 1:20; Phil. 1:8)

*I don't believe Jesus' point in [Matthew 5](#) is that oaths are evil or that an oath can never be legitimate. I believe His point is that the swearing of oaths as practiced by the scribes and Pharisees was evil, in its entirety – because they deliberately swore their oaths by everything EXCEPT God in a foolish effort to sidestep their accountability TO God! ... The heart of the matter in our passage has nothing to do with the formality of an oath or vow. *The heart of the matter is the heart.* – **Bob Deffinbaugh***

This was the problem! It was not oaths in and of themselves it was the very nature of the oaths they were practicing. Their whole system had to go! It was unethical in its entirety. Their entire practice was essentially wrong. They tried to remove oaths from the reality of God and accountability to Him and that is impossible. To even try to do this speaks of evil intentions.

God alone can call creation to be a witness to what He is saying because he ALONE controls nature. What does it even mean to swear by heaven? Remove God from the equation and what is heaven going to do? Without God heaven is no longer heaven as we know it to be.

The point is this type of oath was meaningless if God is removed from the equation. And yet more to the point is that in swearing by heaven God is not really removed at all because it is the place of God's throne. The heaven being sworn by is occupied by God.

In truth there is no loophole in swearing. You can't bypass God! This is the main issue in context. They were trying to strengthen their statements with an oath and yet stop short of invoking God. Jesus is showing no matter what God cannot be bypassed. People are accountable to God for any vow. There is no way around it.

In Matthew 23 Jesus announced seven woes on the scribes and Pharisees. Repeatedly He said, "**Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!**" (Mt. 23:13, 14, 15). It's in that very context that Jesus says this:

Slide # 13

Matthew 23:16–22 (NKJV)

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.**

A hypocrite is an actor – a game player – someone who pretends to be something they are not. The religious leaders pretended to add credibility to their statements by way of these "lesser oath" and yet their statements came from lying hearts. That was the problem. They were hypocritical liars. This is what Jesus forbids!

Don't play games with God. Don't act all spiritual and make some kind of a vow with no intention on carrying through or claiming some kind of immunity because of special wording. That's playing games with God!

Just remember people often try to play word games but God looks on the HEART and He sees right through it.

35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

Don't swear by the earth for it is God's footstool. Again, God is still in the equation. God is sovereign over the earth – not us.

In a sense when one tries to take an oath and leave God out of the equation – in a real sense they are trying to play God. They are now making up the rules. But God doesn't appreciate these hypocritical games.

Slide # 14

Isaiah 66:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Thus says the LORD: "**Heaven is My throne**, And **earth is My footstool**. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?

2 For **all those things My hand has made**, And all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.

God ALONE is sovereign over heaven and earth and to swear by them thus involves God. There is no way around it.

To swear by Jerusalem is to swear by the city of the great King as seen in Ps. 48:2. Yet again God is tied in. In this matter of swearing (making an oath) it is really hard to escape the God-factor; yea impossible.

36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.

And swearing by your own head is profoundly ridiculous -sinfully ridiculous because "you cannot make one hair white or black." Certainly, not without the help of beauty aids – meaning you don't really do this. Your natural color still remains.

The issue here involves authority and control.

Jesus insists that whatever a man swears by is related to God in some way, and therefore every oath is implicitly in God's name – heaven, earth, Jerusalem, even the hairs of the head are all under God's sway and ownership. – **D.A. Carson**

We are not in control. To make vows that try to evade God is to act like we are in control. We are not. The hairs of our head are ultimately under His sovereign control – not ours.

The implication here is that the Jews in their braggadocio oaths that left God out were claiming some kind of authority over the realm they were swearing by such as heaven, earth, Jerusalem, or their own head. That was heady indeed, but also exceedingly sinful. They had no such authority and swearing by any of these things actually did involve God since He is the maker and sustainer of them.

Here is a great eternal truth. Life cannot be divided into compartments in some of which God is involved and in others of which he is not involved; there cannot be one kind of language in the Church and another kind of language in the shipyard or the factory or the office; there cannot be one kind of conduct in the Church and another kind of conduct in the business world. The fact is that God does not need to be invited into certain departments of life, and kept out of others. He is everywhere, all through life and in every activity of life. He hears not only the words which are spoken in his name; he hears all words; and there cannot be any such thing as a form of words which evades bringing God into any transaction. We will regard all promises as sacred if we remember that all promises are made in the presence of God (The Gospel of Matthew, 2 vols. [rev. ed.; Philadelphia: Westminster, 1975], 1:160). - **William Barclay**

37 But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Again, in context Jesus is addressing sinful oaths of the kind being described. God’s kingdom people are not to do this.

Our lifestyle is to be that of being people of our word who don’t need to play hypocritical “oath games” to try and come off like we “really mean it this time.” Jesus is saying we are to be people of our word! We are to be truthful and honest. We are to be people whose bond is our word.

When a man says to me, “I’d swear on a stack of Bibles a mile high,” that is the fellow I do not believe because I think the lie he’s telling is a mile high. – **J. Vernon McGee**

In our ordinary conversation day in and day out with people we know we should never need to swear at all. We should be so honest that people know when we say “no” it means “no” and when we say “yes” it means “yes”. It doesn’t need to be strengthened with a vow.

Now of course, as already pointed out there are occasions when a vow is appropriate but in such a case, we better make sure we are honest and not hypocritical (cf. Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:23; 1 Thess. 2:5, 10; Phil. 1:8). We had better realize this is binding before God and we are certainly accountable for it.

Slide # 15

Some have taken this word of Jesus as more than an emphasis on truth-telling and honesty as an absolute prohibition of all oaths. This is misguided, because oaths are permitted under certain circumstances, as long as they are not abused and used as a cover for deception. – **David Guzik**

The disciples of Christ are to be identified by our truth speaking as a way of life – not just when we take an oath. Our God is a God of truth and as His children that is to be reflected in how we carry on in our day by day living.

To need to back everything up with some kind of an oath would indicate that normally you are a habitual liar. That is not to be the case.

The devil is a perpetual liar and so are his children (Jn. 8:44).

Slide # 16

Numbers 23:19 (NKJV)

19 “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

The sense is that people are natural born liars in contrast to God Who cannot lie (cf. Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18). But now as born again kingdom citizens this is not to define us. We are to be TRUTH-TELLERS as a way of life – not just on special occasions.

Slide # 17

Ephesians 4:25 (NKJV)

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

Slide # 18**James 5:12 (NKJV)**

12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment.

James too was addressing a Jewish audience – converted Jews who now believed in Jesus. With the Jewish culture of “swearing” about everything James says this.

In other words, James is saying that as a way of life you should be people of your word! You don’t need to strengthen what you are saying with vows – which would be like saying, “I lie all the time unless I strengthen it with a vow.” James says be truth tellers as a way of life. Be people of integrity. You don’t swear at all in everyday conversation.

And here we believe James builds on what Jesus taught here in Matt. 5. James warns not to swear in an improper manner, “**lest you fall into judgment**.” James could mean “**judgment**” in the sense of incurring the discipline of God in the here and now or he could have in view giving an account before the judgment seat of Christ (cf. Ja. 5:9).

Either way, this warning is to be taken very seriously. To swear irreverently and improperly is to invite the judgment of God in one form or another. The making of an oath or a vow is never to be done flippantly.

Slide # 19**Ecclesiastes 5:4–5 (NKJV)**

4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed—

5 Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.

And Jesus is saying that in the normal course of life you should not have to vow at all. As a way of life, your YES or your NO should be good enough.

We have all been put on guard by people who feel they have to preface their remarks with oaths. They are always saying, “I swear,” or “This is the honest truth.” We instinctively begin to wonder if they are lying. – **John Phillips**

We live at a time where people play terribly deceptive games with words. I have a book titled “Seduced?” by D.K. Matthews. On the cover under the title are the words: “*Shameless spin, weaponized words, polarization, tribalism, and the impending disintegration of faith and culture.*”

Slide # 20

The verbally seductive redefinition of our entire vocabulary is redefining the future. – **D.K. Matthews**

Slide # 21

We can’t agree on correct definitions of treason, impeachment, freedom of speech, the establishment of religion, the American experiment, democracy, socialism, social justice, compassion, racism, morality, Christian, God, Jesus, salvation, heaven, or hell.
– **D.K. Matthews**

Slide # 22

Ultimately, for meaning to have meaning, for words to serve as words and not weapons, and for individuals and civilizations to flourish, language and communication desperately need realignment with a normative plumb line! – **D.K. Matthews**

Bottom line: We as a society are in trouble because we as a postmodern culture have become adept at being “word-twisters” who no longer even believe in absolute truth.

In this kind of a world God calls His people to be TRUTH TELLERS. We are not to be like the Jews of old who deceptively played word games with oaths -pretending to be people of integrity when in fact they were liars at heart. We are not to be like the postmoderns of our day who claim to have their own truth according to their own dictionary.

For true believers our God is the God of TRUTH. We are all about the revealed truth of God. A half-truth is a whole lie.

God's standard is Himself and His Word. His standard is absolute truthfulness. God never shades the truth a bit.

Slide # 23

Psalm 51:6 (NKJV)

6 Behold, **You desire truth in the inward parts**, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

Slide # 24

Proverbs 6:16–19 (NKJV)

16 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.

One of the last warnings in the Bible comes in Rev. 21:8 where it says that all liars will have their part in the lake of fire.

The devil is the father of lies and lying defines his children. In contrast are the kingdom children of the Lord who are to be characterized by truthfulness. Truth defines kingdom ethics and kingdom living.

Once upon a time people were ignorant and gullible and had a Faith in God and Church. That was called the Middle Ages, and good riddance to them. Then came the Enlightenment, so-called, because people believed in Reason now, and traded faith in God for faith in man's ability to seek and find true knowledge. But now we know better, that there is no truth, that there are only *truths*, and that your truth is yours and my truth is mine, so let's just "coexist."

Claiming philosophically that we can know nothing at all, they turn around and claim to know that class power struggle is the driving engine of history. Claiming that language has no correspondence to the empirical world, they inconsistently make didactic statements about right and wrong and social justice.

Truth is subjective—but my view is right and yours is wrong. Values are impossible—but fight racism and sexism. America is evil—but it's unjust to keep anyone out. Technology is ruinous—but it's not fair that poorer people in the world don't have it. Tolerance is good—but Christianity is intolerable.

[Time to dust off the Bible] and review in 1 Corinthians what God has said about the wisdom of this world. – Andree Seu Peterson – World Mag. – Aug. 17, 2019, p. 63

Indeed, “***the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God***” (1 Cor. 3:19), but TRUTH of our God shall endure forever (cf. Isa. 40:8).

A researcher studied how often people lie during daily conversations. His research revealed that 60 percent of adults were not able to get through a 10 minute conversation without lying at least once. Most people lied three times.

Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV)

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

And the answer comes back...

Jeremiah 17:10 (NKJV)

10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

The whole world is about lying and deceit. We are surrounded by lies. It defines the world and the natural man. But it is not to define us as God's children! In repentance we align with God's truth. In kingdom living we are to be truth-tellers as a way of life.

One of the greatest compliments Jesus ever gave was given to a man named Nathanael.

John 1:47 (NKJV)

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”

Wow! This guy was the genuine article – a person defined by TRUTH!

Want to be a good testimony? Just be a person of your word. Be a consistent TRUTH-TELLER! That's your calling as a kingdom citizen. We are called to be people of integrity. People of our word. People who are honest and truthful. People of character.

The worst testimony in the world is that of a hypocrite. Ironically, the world is full of hypocrites and yet they despise hypocrisy in others.

World-renown Christian apologist Ravi Zacharias recently died of cancer at age 74. In 2018 Ravi said that if he was remembered as 'a *friend of Christ*', that is all he would want. But after he died it came out that he had terribly sexually abused various women over many years and elaborately sought to cover it all up. Ravi in his lifetime was thought to be a champion for God's truth – a person who majored on TRUTH telling.

He wanted to be remembered as "the friend of Christ" but instead he is now remembered as an arch hypocrite who in the end has caused the truth to be greatly blasphemed. It is a valid question as to whether he was ever even saved? God knows!

Truth endures. It catches up with you and in the end will tell all!

In a court of law, it has been common to ask a witness: "***Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?***" It is appropriate to swear in that case. It is appropriate to make vows on special occasions such as a wedding, and so forth.

But in our normal day by day living and casual conversation we should not need to take an oath or make a vow to affirm we are telling the truth because we should be people of our word as a way of life. This is Christ's point! Truth and truth-telling is to define kingdom citizens!

Let your "'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'" For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

Be a truth-teller as a way of life. It's a matter of the HEART!