



HOW TO REALLY SWEAR Matthew 5:33-37

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1. What insight, principle, or observation from this message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
2. When you think of swearing, what comes to mind?
3. Why do people swear?
4. In verse 33, Jesus tells us not to do what?
5. Instead what are we to do?
6. What does Jesus mean by this?
7. Thinking about today's culture, how does Jesus' description of "swearing" differ from what most people think of as "swearing"?
8. What reasons could someone who is following Jesus' teaching have for swearing?
9. In the Bible, swearing (oath taking) was serious business - a commitment of one's entire character and reputation. What in Jesus' teaching helps us to understand the attitude of the people while taking oaths?

10. Why do you think there was an insincerity between what people said and what they actually did?
11. Not too many years back, a hand shake was sufficient to guarantee the fulfillment of a contract. Today, in order to guarantee fulfillment of a contract we seemingly need reams of documents covered with fine print and teams of lawyers. What do you think has changed?
12. Read James 3:9-12. In these verses what contrasts does James make about what comes out of our mouths?
13. How does the tongue (what comes out of our mouths) represent what is in our hearts?
14. Do you think this comparison (tongue representing what's in our hearts) is correct?
15. How does "swearing" represent what is in our hearts?
16. What might what is coming out of you tell others about your heart attitude towards God?
17. Thinking through what Jesus teaches in these verses, if you had to pick just one insight or principle from this study that speaks to the condition of your heart, what would it be? Why? How do you plan to respond to it?