

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Please read Matthew 5:33-37. William Barclay said, "One of the strange things about the Sermon on the Mount is the number of occasions when Jesus was recalling to the Jews that which they already knew. The Jewish teachers had always insisted on the paramount obligation of telling the truth." So, why is Jesus bringing this up?
3. Please read Gen 28:20-22; Deut 10:20; Nu 30:2; and Mt 26:63. Here is a definition of vow and oath. A Vow is a "solemn promise" made between two entities. An Oath is a commitment one makes towards telling the truth or any other matter usually by calling towards something greater than him/herself. Can you think of an example of either one?
4. Do you agree or disagree with Dallas Willard's quote, "There is a credibility gap in our world." Do you believe more or less when someone says..."I swear I'm telling you the truth." "God is my witness." "Cross my heart, hope to die. Stick a needle in my eye." Why or why not?
5. Has anyone ever stood you up?
 - a. Has anyone ever lied to you?
 - b. Have you ever not fulfilled your word?

6. The fact that there are rules about telling the truth says what about our world? What do you think of this quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Oaths are a sign that we live in a world of lies.". In the bible we see people lie repeatedly. Can you think of any bible characters that lied?

7. Pastor Ruben shared two studies - 1) according to one study, in a 10 minute conversation, we tell an average of 3.3 lies. (that's one lie every three minutes); 2) another study said we are lied to about 200 times on a given day. Do you remember the last time you lied?

8. Pastor Ruben said, "We have learned the art of splitting hairs (manipulating the truth) and being able to sleep at night." Sometimes we call it the "White lie", "Stretching the truth", or "sugar coating". We do it in social media, resumes, applications, even casual conversations with friends and colleagues. Why is it easy to lie?

9. Which is worst, telling a lie, or living your life in such a way that you don't commit to anything?

10. According to Matthew 15:18-19, what is our problem?
 - a. Compare with James 5:12 and Proverbs 19:1. Have you ever known someone who you can trust what they say?

11. According to Col 3:9-10, what does God want us to do? Compare with Ps 24:3-4; and Ps 51:6.

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- GOD WANTS YOU TO BE KNOWN FOR YOUR WORD.
- Be more passionate about your integrity than your image.
- We were created to be people of complete integrity.

**Promises
But I Say**

***ThornCreek Church
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