

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Week 7

Read Matthew 5:38-42

Note: The more legalistic Jews at this time had developed a complicated system for determining the severity of an oath and how obligated a person was to keep it. For example, swearing by heaven and earth was not binding, nor was swearing *by* Jerusalem, but swearing *toward* Jerusalem was binding. **See Matthew 23:16-22** for a more descriptive version. So, the oath became a form of manipulation for building trust, rather than simply being trustworthy.

Retell: Summarize in your own words what Jesus is saying about the law prohibiting false vows.

Discuss: How had the Jews, specifically the Pharisees, “loosened” the Law against false vows?

How is Jesus “fulfilling” the Law in His kingdom?

What games do we play to try to build trust artificially?

Application: Take a quiet moment to pray and listen. What practical step Can you take to be more honest and trustworthy? Write it down and share it with the group.

I WILL:

