



Oaths and Retaliation

Oaths

Matthew 5:33-37

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”

- *Oaths, vows, and promises* are sanctioned in Scripture; they are referenced 374 times in the Bible (ESV). However, not all oaths are pleasing to the Lord.

God swears by himself.

Hebrews 6:13-16

The Jews are told to swear by “the Lord your God.”

Deuteronomy 6:13 & Deuteronomy 10:20

Gentiles are taught to swear: “As the Lord lives.”

Jeremiah 12:16

At his trial, Jesus responds to a question only after the high priest uses an oath.

Matthew 26:59-64

- Jesus does not condemn all oaths; what he condemns is the misuse of God’s name when taking oaths for the purpose of getting away with lying.

Jesus calls out the religious leaders for their misuse of oaths.

Matthew 23:16-22



Big picture: Our words should be truthful; our promises should be kept. If the Holy Spirit lives in us, whenever we make a promise, we’re including him in that promise. No crossed fingers.

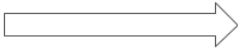
Retaliation

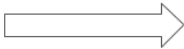
Matthew 5:38-42

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you..."

This Scripture covers four areas that touch on what we might consider to be our "rights." Which proves the greatest challenge for you? Invite God to show you how you can release it to him.

Jesus calls me to surrender...

My personal pride  "But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."

My personal property  "And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well."

My personal freedoms  "And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles."

My personal security  "Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you."

As we continue to search God's Word for guidance regarding how to live our lives in ways that please him, let's remember this promise from **Isaiah 55:10-11**:

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Big picture: All we have belongs to the Lord. When we are wronged, we are to set aside any thought of retaliation and leave judgment in God's hands.