

# Matthew 5:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

## Analysis

Jesus addresses oath-taking, which Jewish law regulated carefully. Oaths invoked God's name or substitutes to guarantee truthfulness. But the practice had become corrupted—people used lesser oaths they felt free to break while claiming only God-oaths were truly binding.

## Historical Context

The Third Commandment prohibited taking God's name in vain. Jewish tradition developed elaborate rules about which oaths were binding. Some teachers said oaths 'by heaven' or 'by Jerusalem' were non-binding, creating loopholes for dishonesty.

## Related Passages

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

1. How do we create 'loopholes' in our speech to justify dishonesty or exaggeration?

2. What does the need for oaths reveal about human untrustworthiness?

## Interlinear Text

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Πάλιν ἡκούσατε ὅτι ἐρρέθη τοῖς ἀρχαίοις οὐκ  
Again ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time not  
G3825 G191 G3754 G4483 G3588 G744 G3756

ἐπιορκήσεις ἀποδώσεις δὲ τῷ κυρίῳ τοὺς ὅρκους  
Thou shalt shalt perform but unto the Lord oaths  
G1964 G591 G1161 G2962 G3588 G3727

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G4675

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 23:21** (References Lord): When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.

**Leviticus 19:12** (References Lord): And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

**Deuteronomy 23:23** (References Lord): That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the LORD thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth.

**Psalms 76:11** (References Lord): Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God: let all that be round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared.

**Exodus 20:7** (References Lord): Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

**Deuteronomy 5:11** (References Lord): Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

**Psalms 50:14** (Parallel theme): Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

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