

# Matthew 5:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

## Analysis

---

You cannot even control your hair color naturally (in ancient times without dye), so how can you swear by your own head? This illustrates human powerlessness and God's sovereignty over even small details. Since you control nothing ultimately, speak humbly and truthfully, recognizing your limitations.

## Historical Context

---

Ancient peoples couldn't artificially color hair as modern technology allows. Jesus's point: you can't even change this small thing by will alone, so don't make grand oaths as if you control outcomes. Only God controls the future.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

---

1. How does recognizing your limitations over life and future events create humility in your speech?
2. In what areas do you speak presumptuously as if you control outcomes only God controls?

## Interlinear Text

---

μήτε	ἐν	τῇ	κεφαλῇ	σου	όμόσῃς	ὅτι	οὐ
<b>Neither</b>	<b>by</b>	G3588	<b>head</b>	<b>thy</b>	<b>shalt thou swear</b>	<b>because</b>	<b>not</b>
G3383	G1722		G2776	G4675	G3660	G3754	G3756
δύνασαι	μίαν	τρίχα	λευκὴν	ἢ	μέλαιναν	ποιῆσαι	
<b>thou canst</b>	G1520	<b>hair</b>	<b>white</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>black</b>	<b>make</b>	
G1410		G2359	G3022	G2228	G3189	G4160	

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Luke 12:25** (Parallel theme): And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?

**Matthew 6:27** (Parallel theme): Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

---

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org