

## Matthew 15 – The Fear of Truth

### Matthew 5:31-37

***Fallen Condition Focus (FCF):*** We are tempted to lie or break our word because we fear the truth and its consequences

Does Jesus forbid all oaths? “But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all”

- Anabaptist view
- But God makes oaths
  - **Genesis 26:3** I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father.
  - **Hebrews 6:16-17** For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. <sup>17</sup> So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, **he guaranteed it with an oath.**
- God’s oaths are not for His benefit, He does not lie

***This is a relatively simple command, why do we struggle with the truth? Why are we tempted to lie?***

### Point 1 – Consequences of the truth

- Telling the truth means facing the consequences
- Temptation to break word to avoid the outcome
- Must we keep all vows? Mistake of Jephthah
- Solution
  - Heavenly perspective:
  - We keep our word because God keeps His word to us in Jesus

### Point 2 – Response of others to the truth

- Fear to speak the truth when it is hard
- Avoid truth by blame shifting
- Why is it so important to shift blame or to avoid the truth with other? Other’s perception of us

### Point 3 – Facing the truth about ourselves

- All of our attempts to craft an image with those around us, are ultimately about convincing ourselves of our value
- 10 commandments really all flow from #1 – you shall have no God before me.