



“SPEAKING THE TRUTH”

Series: “LIVING FROM THE INSIDE OUT”, Part 6 of 19

Sunday, August 6, 2023, at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Text: Matthew 5:33-37

Big Idea: Words are the most healing and helping thing in the world when they are wisely used, but the most destructive and discouraging thing in the world when they are used unwisely.

My favorite country in which to preach was Slovenia.

My uncle murdered two people and paid a penny.

My family raised catfish in our pond.

Matthew 5:33-37, “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’ But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

I. WHAT IS THE REAL ISSUE HERE?

Deuteronomy 10:20, “Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name.”

Numbers 30:2, “When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.”

Genesis 22:16b, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD.”

Matthew 26:63-64a, “But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” 64 “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.”

II. WHY IS TRUTHFULNESS SO IMPORTANT TO GOD?

A. Satan's native language is lying.

Matthew 5:37, "Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

John 8:44, "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Proverbs 12:22, "The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful."

Proverbs 26:28a, "A lying tongue hates those it hurts."

B. God's native language is truth.

Isaiah 65:16a, "Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the God of truth; he who takes an oath in the land will swear by the God of truth."

Revelation 15:3b, "Just and true are your ways."

John 14:6b, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Psalms 51:6, "Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place."

Psalms 15:1, "LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?"

Psalms 15:2, "He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart."

III. WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED?

A. Truth-telling enhances our relationships.

Proverbs 18:21a, "The tongue has the power of life and death."

B. Truth-telling enhances our witness for Christ.