

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, March 17, 2019

**Honest to God!
A Study of Matthew 5:33-37**

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Describe a time you were let down when someone failed to keep a promise they made you.

Describe a time when you knew you had to keep a commitment even when it was hard.

We're in a sermon series called "The Spartan Call." The Spartans were legendary for shaping their men into an elite fighting force. The training program, called the *agoge*, began at the age of 7 and continued to the age of 30. In Matthew 5, Jesus recruited us to heed his "Spartan Call." In verses 21-48, he issued six of his toughest challenges.

The fourth of these six challenges have to do with our integrity.

Read Matthew 5:33-37.

In this passage when Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago...", he was referring to passages like Leviticus 19:12 and Psalm 50:14. Read those verses.

Sadly, by Jesus' day, the promises that God's name were considered binding but people felt they could get out of any vow if God's name was not explicitly included when making the promise.

What was Jesus's solution to this problem?

Do you think he was prohibiting things we do today like the "oath of office" for a public official or the "swearing in" of a witness in a court? Why or why not? (Hint: Does the "solution" Jesus suggested for combatting lust in this same section, Matthew 5:29-30, help us understand how to interpret his prohibition of oaths in Matthew 5:33-37?)

Scripture helps us understand ***five benefits of integrity***. Use your sermon notes to fill in the following blanks as we come to them.

First Benefit of Integrity: Self-R_____

Read Proverbs 10:9.

In the NIV, the man of integrity “walks securely.” Describe how integrity can make a person “secure.”

In the movie, *Rob Roy*, the lead character tells his sons, “Honor is a gift a man gives himself.” In what way is this true?

Second Benefit of Integrity: A Closer W_____ with God

Read Psalm 15.

“God’s holy hill” doesn’t just mean “heaven”—so what does it mean?

Why should we want to “live” on God’s holy hill?

List all the phrases in Psalm 15 that have to do with integrity and sound speech.

Read Ephesians 2:8-10. While Paul seems to be saying that God accepts us on the basis of his grace, Psalm 15 seems to say that God accepts us on the basis of our good conduct. How can both be true?

Third Benefit of Integrity: Moral L_____

Read Philippians 2:15.

Define moral leadership as it should be demonstrated by various positions of authority, such as a sports coach, a boss, a politician, and so on. (Please avoid making general and sweeping statements about someone else’s team or party! The question is about moral leadership you’ve *seen*, not moral leadership you think is missing.)

Fourth Benefit of Integrity: Effective W_____

What kinds of deception are people tempted to use at work?

Read Titus 2:9-10.

This passage says that it is our duty to not only *share* the gospel but also to make it *attractive*. What happens if we only do the first without the second? What happens if we only do the second without the first?

In addition to integrity, make a list of other things you could do this week to make “the teaching about God our Savior” more attractive to your boss and work associates?

Fifth Benefit of Integrity: An Admirable P_____

Read Proverbs 20:7.

When you were growing up, which adult(s) set a good example of integrity for you? In what ways?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests