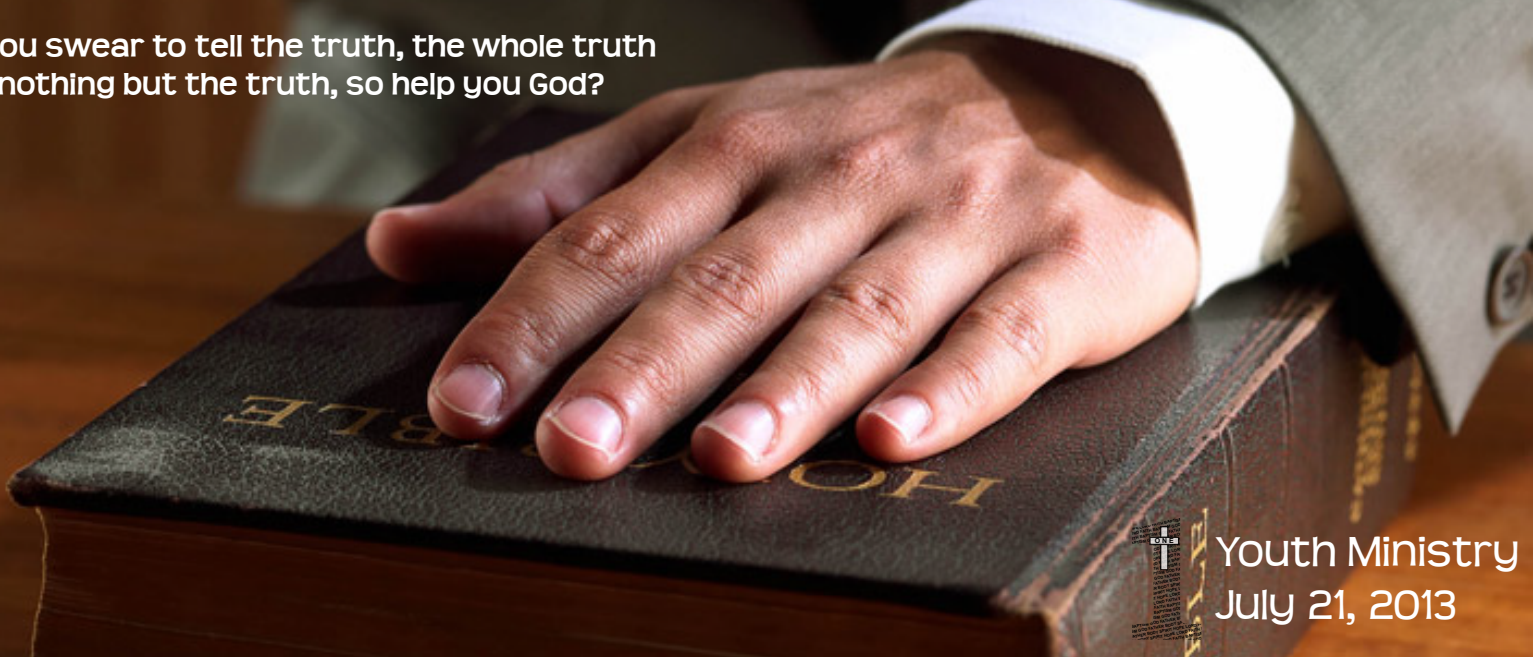


Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth  
and nothing but the truth, so help you God?



Youth Ministry  
July 21, 2013

**Offering Message:** We talked about how some Christians claim that they no longer need to tithe because it is an Old Testament law and Jesus never said to tithe in the New Testament. We looked at Luke 11:42 where Jesus confronts the Pharisees about their tithing and he clearly confirms that tithing is still important but we should also not forget other equally important principles such as justice and loving God and others.

**Luke 11:42**

42 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

**Lesson:**

We discussed Jesus’ teaching to his disciples in Matthew 5:33-37 to not make vows or promises but to instead just simply let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes’ and your ‘no’ be ‘no’. He was telling them to be a person of their word and live a trustworthy life so that when they say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ people will know that they mean it without the need to make promises or vows. People will trust them. We said that Jesus was not talking about not saying maybe or I don’t know and he wasn’t talking about surprises or jokes or giving your opinion. He was simply talking about being a person of your word.

We talked about that when you say to somebody “I promise” you’re basically telling them that other times you’re lying but now you’re not. We discussed what lying does to other’s trust in you and how even small “white lies” can damage that trust so that people don’t know when to believe you or not. Even worse, you can lie to the point that you don’t even believe yourself.

We talked about how can you be the guiding light for others to follow if you don’t have their trust. Why would they believe you? What makes you any different than the world if what you say can’t be trusted?

Finally, we talked about how lying shakes the very foundation of your life here on Earth. We discussed Lance Armstrong and what great things he did yet people now only remember him for his lying. We mentioned several Presidents who were also great and did great things yet are now remembered only for their lies (Clinton & Nixon). In contrast, we discussed Abraham Lincoln who had such great integrity that his nickname was “Honest Abe” and people remember him for always telling the truth.

We agreed that while it is a very difficult thing to do, if we don’t speak the truth, we cheapen all the other words we use so that even when we speak truth, people may doubt us and not trust us. Jesus challenges us to live differently than the world and be a trustworthy person letting our ‘yes’ mean ‘yes’ and our ‘no’ mean ‘no’ doing what we say and saying what we do.

**Bible Verse: Proverbs 12:22**

22 The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

**Bible Verse: Matthew 5:33-37**

33 “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ 34 But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37 All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

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