**June 23, 2019 “Yes or No, What’s it Going to Be? Matthew 5:33-37**

As we study through the Sermon on the Mount, I think we will do ourselves a serious disservice if we do not revisit the themes found in the Book of Matthew. But before we can look at the themes of this book, we must understand to whom it was its primary audience. The book of Matthew was written primarily to the Jewish people. In it you see over and over again references to the O.T. and also the phrase “the kingdom of heaven” is used.

Contained in this book are three great themes. Write these down because there will be a quiz next week.

The first theme is this: the king of the kingdom of heaven. Over and over again you will see in the book of Matthew where Jesus is established as a king. In fact the book starts out with a genealogy which shows Jesus as a direct descendant not only of David but also of Abraham… the Father of the Jewish nation. The book starts out establishing His right to the throne and when He is tempted, He is tempted by what? All the kingdoms of the world… and it ends with this statement: “all authority has been given unto Me in heaven and on earth”. (Matthew 28:18)

The second great theme is this: the rejection of the King. From the time of His conception He is suffering rejection. Remember what was said about Joseph? (Matthew 1:18-20) He, Joseph was going to reject Mary as his wife until the dream came to him. Chapter 2 of Matthew… the Magi came from the east asking what? Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? How many of the chief priests went to go see Him as they knew full well He was to be born in Bethlehem which was about 7 miles away. How many went to see Him? ZERO!!! Joseph has to flee for the life of the child in the middle of the night to a foreign country and then land in some obscure village called Nazareth in which to raise this Child. And on and on it goes throughout His entire life… “the foxes have holes and the birds of the air have their nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head”. Whom shall I release unto you? Jesus or Barabbas?

The final theme is this: He is coming back again. If you want to study Bible prophecy concerning the return of Jesus Christ, the study could not possibly be complete without a comprehension of what Matthew has recorded concerning His return. “When will these things happen and what will be the sign of Your Coming and of the end of the age?” How can you and I know where we are at today on God’s calendar? Read Matthew 24 and 25.

Three great themes: 1. the kingdom of heaven; 2. the rejection of their King; and 3rd, He is coming back again.

Matthew 5:33-37… Jesus again is addressing the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

1. You have heard it said
   1. Recurring statement in vs 21, 27, 31, 33, 38 and 43
      1. Some of these statements were in the O.T. and others were not
      2. Why?
         1. Matthew 15:8-9… teaching as doctrines the teachings of men
   2. Is this statement in verse 33 in the O.T.?
      1. No… you will not find it anywhere
      2. What is going on here?
2. Define… vow
   1. Solemn oath for a special occasion
      1. Do you before God and these witnesses present… take unto you the woman you hold by hand to be your lawfully wedded wife?
      2. Place your right hand on the Bible. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth… so help you God?
      3. If you read through the O.T. you will see similar oaths taken at various times
         1. David and Jonathan, Jephthah, Samuel, etc.
         2. Numbers 30:2
            1. Hebrews 6:16-17
            2. Smoking pot and blazing torch

Pharisees had a little different take on vows or oaths and what Jesus is addressing is the lying aspect of the human heart.

1. Matthew 5:33… unto the Lord
   1. Here is what they really meant
      1. Matthew 23:16-24
      2. These vows didn’t mean anything because they weren’t…
      3. Made all kinds of excuses why they couldn’t do this or that
      4. Mark 7:11
      5. Matthew 26:69-75
         1. Denied Christ
         2. Denies with an oath (so help me God… as God is my witness)
         3. Denies with a curse (May God strike me dead, etc. and an oath)
2. Way of this world (Proverbs 12:22)
   1. Wouldn’t it be nice once in a while to be told the truth?
      1. Newspapers, television, internet, politicians, advertisers, etc.
      2. Whole system is based on lying and not telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth
         1. No, I did not lie to you… I just didn’t tell you all the facts…
         2. Jesus is saying to all of us
            1. Stop it… tell the truth
            2. Why? Out of the abundance of the heart… the mouth speaks
            3. You want to know what is in your heart?
            4. Listen to what comes out of your mouth

So, what are we to learn from this passage?

First… if you are a Christian stop telling everyone that you are one… show them you are a Christian… keep your promises and be truthful.

Secondly… guard your heart with all diligence. We live in a lying, cheating, conniving culture… make a point of not being a part of it. It is only dead fish that go with the flow… speak the truth in love and mercy… rise above the standards of this worlds system.