

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

January 13, 2014

Yes means "yes" and no means "no"!

MATTHEW 5:33-37 NLT – (33) "You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.' (34) But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. (35) And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. (36) Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black. (37) Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

In Jesus' day, people commonly made oaths, or vows. Although God's law took these vows seriously, many of the religious leaders had invented legal maneuvers to get around keeping their vows – their word alone should be enough! The principal applies the same way today. Your word should be enough! The question is, are you known as a person of your word? Or is it you may not be one to depend on due to not or often telling the truth or maybe you might find yourself procrastinating often.

Jesus emphasized that His followers should just simply say, "Yes I will or can," or "no I won't or can't." Your word is enough! People only need vows only when telling lies is a possibility. To strengthen your promise with a vow shows that something is wrong. Keeping promises or your word builds trust and makes committed human relationships possible.

If we have made a vow foolishly and realized we cannot or should not keep it, we should confess it to God, knowing that He is "faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." A broken vow, while serious, is not an unforgivable matter if taken to the Lord in true confession. God will not hold us to vows made imprudently, but He expects us to obey Jesus and refrain from making vows in the future.

SCRIPTURE READING

JONAH 2:9

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The man who promises everything is sure to fulfil nothing, and everyone who promises too much is in danger of using evil means in order to carry out his promises, and is already on the road to perdition.