

Swear Not at All  
Matthew 5:27-32

Review:

1. While the ancient Pharisees used oaths to convince people to believe them, we put spin on the truth to hide our real thoughts and feelings, or to conceal our guilt
2. Any attempt to hide or distort the truth joins Satan in attacking the God Who is truth
3. God promised a Savior Who would destroy the power of sin and death, and God kept His promise in Jesus Christ
4. Because God has kept His promise, we are free to keep our promises to love God and other people?

Go Further: Read Genesis 3:1-15

1. How does verse 1 describe the serpent?
2. What question does the serpent ask the woman in verse 1? Comparing his question to 2:16-17, how does the serpent make God's prohibition seem more onerous than it really was?
3. Compare the woman's response in 3:3 with 2:16-17. How does she also distort God's commandment to make it seem more restrictive?
4. How does the serpent directly contradict God in 3:4?
5. How does the serpent impugn God's motives in 3:5?
6. What three things did the woman observe about the forbidden fruit in 3:6?
7. What did the woman do as a result of her observations?
8. What did the man do?
9. How did the perspective of both the man and the woman change immediately after the man's sin? How did this change demonstrate that Satan was telling a half-truth in 3:5?
10. How did the man and woman try to hide from each other in 3:7?
11. What did the man and the woman do when they heard God walking in the garden?
12. What reason does Adam give in 3:10 for hiding from God?
13. When God confronts Adam with his sin in verse 11, how does Adam try to shift the blame in verse 12?
14. In verse 13, whom does the woman blame for her sin?
15. In verse 15, what does God promise that the seed (the descendant) of the woman will do to the serpent?
16. What does God say that the serpent will do to the seed of the woman?

Apply:

1. To what extent were Satan's words in 3:4-5 true? To what extent were they false? How does this illustrate the danger of telling half-truths?
2. In 3:6, the woman decided to trust her reasoning instead of God's Word. Have you ever done this? What were the consequences of making such a decision?
3. In 3:6, the man chose to believe his wife instead of trusting God's Word (3:17). Have you ever done this? What were the consequences of such a decision?
4. How does sin change our relationships with other people? How does it change our relationship with God?
5. How is Genesis 3:15 fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Christ? How does Christ's saving work free us from the need to use deceptive words to hide from God and from other people?