



ONE AWESOME SERMON:
GODLINESS, GRACE & GRIT

Matt. 5:33-42



WHAT'S IN AN OATH?

A pledge to do something

A call on God to witness the fulfillment of it

A plea for God to punish in the case of failure

VS. 33

Not hard to see where this is getting off track

“You have heard...”

The Law on oaths (Lev. 19:12; Deut. 23:21-23)

“Keep the oaths you have made to the Lord”
(by implication, “but the rest...”)

LESSER THINGS

Swearing by lesser things was the adult version of having your fingers crossed when you told a lie.

Heaven. Earth. Jerusalem.

All recognized as greater than us, but not God
(thereby incapable of retribution)



ECHOED BY JAMES

“Above all, my brothers, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your ‘yes’ be yes, and your ‘no’ no, or you will be condemned.”

James 5:12



VS. 38

See Ex. 21:23-25; Lev. 24:20; Deut. 19:21

The Law covered civil cases, not private vengeance,
to ensure that the punishment fit the crime.

The point was to exact justice, not revenge



BUT I TELL YOU...

Vss. 39-42

Jesus unpacks “Do not resist an evil person” for us


Does it make you wish you hadn't asked?



THE PRINCIPLE EXPANDED

Rom. 12:17-21

With a touch of 1 Cor. 6:7



The more we read in the Sermon on the Mount – and the more we submit to His teaching – the more we understand that we are aliens and strangers here.

Sojourners, indeed...

“Come, Holy Spirit, I need you”