

King Jesus Gospel _ Ep. 9

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.

Jesus was not dismissing the letter of the law, He was reminding them of the spirit of the law.

Covenants are strong bonds built upon vows.

Jesus is addressing two important truths :

(1) Holy Living (see Leviticus 19)

(2) Holy Authority (see Numbers 30)

Allegiance to Jesus requires authenticity.

1 Peter 2:9–12;15-17 (NLT)

⁹ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ “Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God’s mercy.”

¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. ¹² **Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world...**

¹⁵ It is God’s will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. ¹⁶ For you are free, yet you are God’s slaves, so don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. ¹⁷ Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.

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Inner Vows are unholy commitments turned inward that rely solely on your authority and reject God's sovereign reign in that area of your life.

Allegiance to Jesus requires submitting to His authority.

1 Peter 3:22 (NLT)

²² Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.

Allegiance to Jesus requires that we live authentic and surrendered lives. Not excusing our faults, but repenting from them and submitting to Jesus' authority.

Psalm 34:12-18 (NLT)

*¹² Does anyone want to live a life
that is long and prosperous?*

*¹³ Then keep your tongue from speaking evil
and your lips from telling lies!*

*¹⁴ Turn away from evil and do good.
Search for peace, and work to maintain it.*

*¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right;
his ears are open to their cries for help.*

*¹⁶ But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil;
he will erase their memory from the earth.*

*¹⁷ The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help.
He rescues them from all their troubles.*

*¹⁸ The Lord is close to the brokenhearted;
he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.*

PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection, but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Read through the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), slowly.

Meditate on each phrase of this Gospel summary:

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The Gospel is the good news that God our Father, the Creator, out of His great love for us, has come to rescue us from sin, Satan, death and hell, and to renew all things, in and through the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf, to establish His kingdom, through His people who participate in loyal allegiance in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is for God's great glory, and our profound joy.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)

- Read Matthew 5:33-37. Sunday's message was about living out a pledge to live holy, authentic, and under God's authority. Did anything speak to you or stir a question within you?
- God created covenants and Satan counterfeits them with inner vows. Read Isaiah 14:12-15. What were the inner vows made by Satan in this passage?
- Read Psalm 34:12-18. What are these verses saying to you? Why is authenticity important to a life of faith?
- One of the greatest hindrances to our loyalty and faithfulness to Jesus are inner vows we make. What were some of the reasons given during the message for that being true?
- Are there some inner vows you've made? Share if you're willing.

