

Jesus continues in His rejection of the false interpretation and application of God's laws by the scribes and Pharisees. He continues to emphasize the difference between righteousness in the religious system of the scribes and Pharisees and the righteousness which is a result of being a kingdom participant.

**Key thought: You must not use oaths flippantly to impress, rather you should be truthful in thought, word, and deed**

### I. Jesus condemns the use of flippant oaths.

#### A. Mosaic law

*Leviticus 19:12; Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 23:21; Proverbs 12:22*

Two Greek words used in this passage:

1. **epiorkeo** – to perjure oneself, to swear falsely
2. **horkos** – literally means to enclose, as with a fence, or to bind together.

#### B. Pharisees and scribes - their perverted interpretation had...

1. improper circumstance - honesty
2. a misplaced emphasis – limiting honest oaths to vows to the Lord

There is a great difference between appearing truthful and being truthful!

### II. Jesus commends truthfulness in thoughts, words, and deeds.

*Psalms 51:6*

A. An oath is only as reliable as the one who makes it!

B. God is the creator and Lord of everything, therefore, to make an oath by anything is to make an oath to God.

*Proverbs 6:16-17; James 5:12; Matthew 23:16-19*

### III. Principles for maintaining your integrity by keeping your word:

A. Say what you mean

B. Mean what you say