

05-Sep-2021 | Discussion Questions
Jesus' Teaching on the True Spirit of the Law: Oaths, Retaliation & Love of Enemies
Matthew 5:33-48 | Pr Songg Kok Kee

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Oaths Matt. 5: 33-37

1. The Quakers have traditionally refused to take an oath even in a Court of Law quoting the above passage. Is our Lord teaching no oaths to be taken?

2. Abraham extracted an oath from his servant when he was asked to find a wife for Isaac. Gen 23: 3-4.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones commenting on this particular passage said "That holy man Jacob extracted an oath from Joseph, Joseph extracted an oath from his brethren and Jonathan asked an oath from David. You cannot read the Old Testament without seeing that, on certain special occasions, these holiest of men had to take an oath in a most solemn and serious manner.

For NT references, read Matthew 26: 63; Romans 9:1; 2 Cor. 1: 23; Heb. 6:16.

From these, what's our conclusion on oath taking?

Retaliation Matt. 5: 38-42

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

3. This so-called law of retaliation, as its contexts show was meant to limit the punishment to fit the crime. By invoking the law of love, Jesus corrected the popular misunderstanding of the law of retaliation.

Lloyd-Jones also pointed out that this was not given to the individual, but rather to the judges who were responsible for law & order amongst the individuals. It was the judges who were to see to it that it was an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth and no more. How would you interpret and practice this teaching of our Lord regarding retaliation in our daily life?

Love for Enemies. Matt. 5: 43-48

- a) Does Lev 19:18 teach us to love our neighbor and hate our enemies?

- b) Is it possible for us to love our enemies?

- c) What would you pray for those who persecute you?

- d) What's your experience with your enemies and persecutors?