

Bible Study 12 – Keeping our word – Matthew 5:33-37

Lie detectors measure changes in skin conductivity, heart rate, respiration rate, blood pressure, capillary dilation, and muscular movement. The assumption is that there are physiological changes when people tell a lie. The results are categorized as: Truthful, Deceptive, Inconclusive or Purposeful Non-Cooperation, the latter being when someone is obviously (to the examiner) trying to fool the instrument. Some try to cheat the polygraph system by taking sedatives to reduce anxiety; using antiperspirant to prevent sweating; and biting parts of the mouth after each question to demonstrate a constant physiological response.

The context	After Jesus choose the 12 disciples, He preached the Sermon on the Mount to them (Matthew 5-7). Six times He contrasts His teaching with the Old Testament (Mt. 5:21-48). The law prohibited swearing falsely by the name of God (Lev. 19:12; Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21). To swear by God’s name meant that He was your witness that you were telling the truth. To avoid swearing falsely against God (when they wanted to lie about something), the Jews were swearing against heaven, earth, Jerusalem, or their head instead.
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PART 1 Read and summarise each section – Matthew 5:33-37

The law (v.33)	
Correcting their practice (v.34-36)	
Summary (v.37)	

PART 2 Things I discovered in this passage

1. *What I learnt about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.*

2. *What I learnt about people like us.*

3. *Summarise a key verse in your own words.*

4. *In your opinion, what are the most important biblical principles being taught?*

5. *Which other parts of the passage caught your attention?*

6. *What do you think about terms like: “For heavens sake”; “For God’s sake” ... (Exodus 20:7; James 5:12)?*

7. *Which parts of the passage were difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?*

We do not need an oath to verify our word if we always tell the truth.



