

## Sermon on the Mount Series

“Becoming Kingdom People”

### *Vows & Oaths: Be Careful of Both* *Matthew 5:33-37*

#### Intro:

### **Billionaires Vow to Fight Death**

☒ We still can't stop the brute fact of death, but that isn't stopping five billionaires who are trying to lead the human race out of mortality. First, there's billionaire Peter Thiel, who has "invested heavily" in organizations like the SENS Foundation, which is devoted to developing "rejuvenation biotechnologies," although nothing's panned out yet.

Then there's William Andregg, the founder of a Silicon Valley nanotechnology start-up called Halcyon Molecular, who claims that he plans to live for "millions, billions, hundreds of billions of years." Halcyon Molecular quietly went out of business last summer.

Then there's Russian transhumanist multimillionaire Dmitry Itskov who launched the 2045 Initiative, and offers the promise that humans be immortal by the year 2045 ... just as soon as we "make a leap into artificial, machine bodies."

But the billionaire who brings the most fiery passion to the cause, by far, is Larry Ellison, who "gives out more than \$40 million" to the Ellison Medical Foundation to understand "lifespan development processes." According to Forbes magazine, Ellison's net worth is \$43 billion. Recently Ellison said, "Death makes me very angry. It doesn't make any sense to me. Death has never made any sense to me. How can a person be there and then just vanish, just not be there?"

Adapted from Nitasha Tiku, "Billionaires Will Disrupt Death If It's The Last Thing They Do" Valley Wag (8-22-13)

#### ☒ I. Vows: Old Testament practice

##### ☒ Mat 5:33

33 "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.'

##### ☒ Lev 19:12

12 'You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

##### ☒ Num 30:2

2 "If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

##### ☒ Deu 23:21

21 "When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it, for it would be sin in you, and the LORD your God will surely require it of you.

Missed emphasis was the thrust of the false vow - prohibition → vows TO the Lord but if I vow to another person seemed to be optional

#### ☒ MacArthur quote p323

People would swear by heaven, by earth, by the Temple, by the hairs on their heads, and by any other thing they thought would impress those they wanted to take advantage of. That kind of routine oath-making was usually lie-making; and it was considered by those who practiced it to be perfectly acceptable as long as it was not in the name of the Lord.

## ☒ II. Jesus' Correction of Oaths

### ☒ Mat 5:34-37

34 "But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING. 36 "Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' [or] 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.

Being kingdom people is keeping oaths made to God as a mark of true worship – True kingdom people hate lies

### ☒ Psa 119:29, 163

29 Remove the false way from me, And graciously grant me Your law. ... 163 I hate and despise falsehood, [But] I love Your law.

### ☒ Psa 120:2

2 Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, From a deceitful tongue.

### ☒ A. No oaths at ALL

Jesus' correction is NOT prohibiting all oaths/vows but the object and truthfulness of those oaths which are flippant, profane and uncalled for such as I swear to God.... as a conversation starting or used to impress others

Notice how anything but God Himself was used to support the oath process in vss 34-36  
Heaven, earth, Jerusalem, own head

### ☒ Mat 23:20-22

20 "Therefore, whoever swears by the altar, swears [both] by the altar and by everything on it. 21 "And whoever swears by the temple, swears [both] by the temple and by Him who dwells within it. 22 "And whoever swears by heaven, swears [both] by the throne of God and by Him who sits upon it.

Jesus made oaths near the end of His ministry:

### ☒ Jhn 16:23

23 "In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you.

### ☒ Jhn 21:18

18 "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to [go.]"

Paul made an oath

### ☒ Rom 9:1

1 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit,

### ☒ Barclay quote

Life cannot be divided into compartments in some of which God is involved and in others of which He is not involved; there cannot be one kind of language in the Church and another kind of language in the shipyard or the factory or the office; there cannot be one kind of conduct in the Church and another kind of

conduct in the business world. The fact is that God does not need to be invited into certain departments of life, and kept out of others. He is everywhere, all through life and in every activity of life. We will regard all promises as sacred if we remember that all promises are made in the presence of God.

This is about truth and being truthful.

## B. Simplicity

Yes or No

### Jas 5:12

12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

Anything else is of evil – we live among liars and have lied ourselves because we are sinful

### John 8:44

44 "You are of [your] father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [nature,] for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Daniel Webster

There is nothing as powerful as truth and often nothing as strange.

## Take Away/Application

Have you fallen into the habit of invoking God's name to support or give rationale to your oaths or vows? "I swear to God" If so, how can you correct that?

How is your overall conduct and speech outside of the Church? 2 Standards? Does it need some work?

Be Truthful!