



## **A Greater Righteousness in Oaths, Persecution, and Love**

Matthew 5:33-48

- 1) Flippant oaths use God's name in vain & expose us as occasional liars (33-37)
  - a) If we do not swear by God, can we then lie?
  - b) Oaths are proper in the OT (Lev 19:12; Num 30:2; Deut 10:20; 23:21; Jer 12:16)
  - c) Oaths are proper in the NT (Matt 26:63; 2 Cor 1:18; Gal 1:20)
  - d) Let your word be good enough without an oath; we are never to swear carelessly
  - e) Practice saying what you mean and meaning what you say
  - f) Whether words are many or few, lies are always lurking
- 2) Persecution is part of the Christian life; tolerate it with grace! (38-42)
  - a) When insulted, endure (39)
  - b) When wronged, don't get even; give up your rights (40)
  - c) When hated, uncover Christ in your actions (42)
  - d) When taken advantage of, suffer it with an attitude of joy (42)
- 3) Be perfect, as God is perfect, in your love for all people (43-48)
  - a) Love your enemies with action, not necessarily feelings (44-45)
    - i) Unconditional love proves we are God's children
    - ii) As God provides for all, let us do the same
  - b) Praying for our enemies always changes us and sometimes our enemies too!
  - c) Loving those who love us is common to unbelievers; God's sons rise above that
  - d) Ask yourself, "What do I do more than others?"