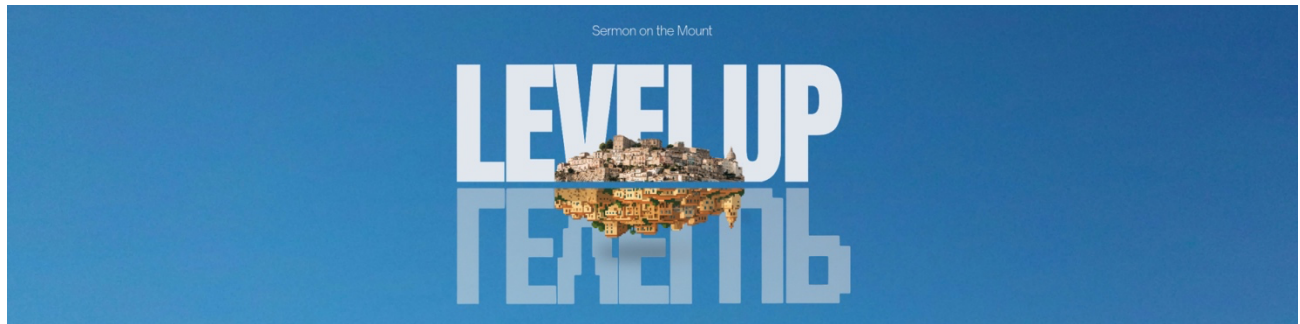




Week 5 – Divorce and Oaths

Opening: Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.

Overview: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is showing us what life under His rule and reign looks like. This week, Jesus addresses marriage, divorce, and the promises we make. Underneath each of these topics is a question: Does your word mean anything? Jesus is forming people who can be trusted.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- When you think of a trustworthy person, who comes to mind? What is it about that person that makes them easy to believe?
 - Why do you think broken promises or dishonesty can damage a relationship so quickly?
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DISCOVER

Read Together: Matthew 5:31-37

Initial observations + Interpreting Scripture:

- **Initial Thoughts:** What stood out to you from this passage or from the sermon?

Marriage and Covenant Faithfulness

- Jesus points beyond the legal question of a divorce certificate to the deeper issue of covenant faithfulness. What is the difference between treating marriage like a contract and treating it like a covenant?
- The message described the wrong question as, “What can I get away with?” and the Kingdom question as, “What does faithfulness look like?” Where else in life are we tempted to look for the minimum requirement instead of asking what faithfulness looks like?

A brief leader note:

This passage can touch painful and personal stories. Make room for grace, avoid forcing anyone to share, and do not use this discussion to pressure someone to remain in an

unsafe situation. As the sermon emphasized, situations involving abuse or danger require protection, wisdom, and pastoral care. If further assistance or care is needed, feel free to contact info@gethope.net or ayren@gethope.net.

Your Yes Should Be Enough

- In verses 33–37, Jesus confronts the use of oaths and loopholes that allowed people to manipulate the truth. What does Jesus mean when He says to let your “Yes” be yes and your “No” be no?
 - Why is it possible to be deeply offended by someone else’s dishonesty while being comfortable excusing our own?
 - What are some ways we can technically avoid lying while still creating a false impression?
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APPLY – Becoming People Who Can Be Trusted

Jesus is not only changing what we say; He is forming our character. Consider the places where your words carry weight.

- **At Home:** Are there promises, commitments, or words to your spouse, children, family, or roommates that you need to follow through on?
 - **At Work or School:** Where are you tempted to exaggerate, hide part of the truth, take credit, or create an impression that is not fully accurate?
 - **In Relationships:** Is there a conversation where honesty needs to replace avoidance, half-truths, or people-pleasing?
 - **Before God:** Have you made commitments to God that you have treated casually? What would faithful obedience look like now?
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RESPOND

Use these questions for quiet reflection first, then invite people to share as they feel comfortable.

- **Self-Reflect:** Where has my word become cheap?
 - **Tell the Truth:** Is there something I need to admit, clarify, or stop hiding behind carefully chosen words?
 - **Make It Right:** Is there a promise I need to keep, an apology I need to make, or a commitment I need to honor?
 - **Receive Grace:** Where do I need to stop trying to prove my own righteousness and receive the grace of Jesus?
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THE GOSPEL

We may break our word, but God keeps His. Jesus was perfectly faithful, even when faithfulness led Him to the cross. Through faith in Him, we receive a righteousness we could never achieve, and His Spirit begins forming that same faithfulness in us

GROUP PRAYER

- Thank God for **His faithfulness** towards unfaithful people.
- Pray for **marriages and relationships**.
- Ask for **courage** to tell the truth at all times
- **Strength** to keep commitments

CLOSE

Challenge the group to carry one question into the week: “Where has my word become cheap?” Encourage each person to take one concrete step of faithfulness: tell the truth, apologize, keep a promise, or stop making commitments they do not intend to keep.