

LIVING AS LIGHTS, PART 3

MATTHEW 5:33-42

Let what you say be simply 'yes' or 'no'; anything more than this comes from evil. **Matthew 5:37**

I. Right Thinking About Vows

II. Right Thinking About Vengeance

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. Have you ever served on a jury? If so, how many times? Were you satisfied with the results?

Into the Bible

2. Read Isaiah 30:18 and Isaiah 61:8-9. How does the knowledge of God's character that these two passages reveal help us when we are the target of unjust accusations and/or unfair actions?

3. Go back and read Matthew 5:11-12. Then read 2 Peter 3:8-10. What do these two passages tell us about God's timetable for carrying out the promises from Isaiah 30 and Isaiah 61?

Application

4. Jehovah's Witnesses and some Christians argue that Matthew 5:33-37 (echoed in James 5:9-12) prohibit us from any oath, including the pledge of allegiance, oaths of office, and sworn testimony in a court of law. Should we abstain from these? Why or why not?

5. According to Matthew 5:38-42, how should we respond to demands that infringe on our rights to personal property (verse 40) or personal freedoms (verse 41)? What do our actions and attitudes say about our ultimate allegiance? What are some practical ways that you can obey these verses this week?

For Families

5. Talk with your children about the difference between seeking justice and getting even.