

SERMON ON THE MOUNT: PURSUING EXCELLENCE IN CHRIST

February 2026 Theme: Salt and Light in a Dark World

“A Simple Yes or No Will Do”

Matthew 5:33–37

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February 15, 2026

2026 Theme	Sermon on the Mount: Pursuing Excellence in Christ
February Theme	Salt and Light in a Dark World
Sermon Focus	<i>Integrity in speech and action is how we become salt and light</i>

Key Greek Words in Matthew 5:33–37

The following Greek words from this passage enrich our understanding and are woven throughout the sermon outline.

Greek Word	Verse	Meaning & Significance
ἐπιορκέω (epiorkéō)	v. 33	"To break an oath / perjure" — not just lying, but violating a sworn commitment to God
ὀμνῶ (omnuō)	vv. 34–36	"To swear a formal oath" — used 5 times; Jesus systematically closes every oath category
ὅλως (holōs)	v. 34	"At all / entirely" — Jesus isn't reforming oaths; He's replacing them altogether
πονηροῦ (ponērou)	v. 37	"Evil" or "the Evil One" — grammatically ambiguous; the need for oaths stems from both sin and Satan
περισσόν (perissón)	v. 37	"Excess / surplus" — the extra words and stacking add nothing to the truth
ναὶ / οὐ (nai / ou)	v. 37	"Yes" and "No" — the simplest words in Greek; kingdom speech doesn't need to be complex, just true

Central Idea:

Christians do not put power in oaths like the world does. We say what we mean and do what we say, because our authority doesn't come from the oath — it comes from the character behind it.

Key Supporting Scriptures

Scripture	Connection
James 5:12	Parallel teaching — let your yes be yes, your no be no
Leviticus 19:12	OT foundation — do not swear falsely by God's name
Numbers 30:2	OT foundation — a man must not break his word
Deuteronomy 23:21–23	OT foundation — fulfill your vows to the Lord
Matthew 23:16–22	Jesus rebukes the Pharisees' oath technicalities
Psalms 15:1–4	Who may dwell with God? The one who keeps their word
Hebrews 6:13–18	God swore by Himself — His character guaranteed the promise
Colossians 3:9–10	Put off lying — honest speech is part of the new creation
John 8:44	Satan is the father of lies — connects to ponērou in v. 37
Matthew 11:28	Christ's invitation — His "yes" to us, proven on the cross

Sermon-at-a-Glance

Section	Key Idea
Introduction	The world uses oaths to cover dishonesty; Jesus calls us higher
Point I (vv. 33–34a)	The world misunderstands where the power lies — epiorkéō and holōs show Jesus is replacing the system, not reforming it
Point II (vv. 34b–36)	God's people don't need omnuō — everything we swear by belongs to God; trustworthiness is the real currency
Point III (v. 37)	Ponērou reveals the evil root; perissón exposes the emptiness; nai and ou reflect Christ's excellence
Conclusion	Speak like you belong to the King — let integrity be your sermon
Invitation	Say nai to Christ and let your word carry the weight of His character

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