

# Keeping a Promise

Matthew 5:31-37



<sup>31</sup> “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup> But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 5:31-37



<sup>33</sup> “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ <sup>34</sup> But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

Matthew 5:31-37

Most of the people listening to Jesus' sermon that day on the hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee had only one source for spiritual truth—their religious leaders. Unfortunately, they had been taught that it's perfectly right and just in God's sight for men to divorce their wives for almost any reason and to make commitments they never planned to keep.



Jesus clarified the issue. Divorce is indeed a serious sin, though justified for the spouse whose partner is unfaithful sexually. And, when we make commitments we are to be totally honest, with no hidden agendas and no wavering for selfish reasons. When we say “Yes” or “No” we should mean what we say. This of course includes our marriage vows.

Gene Getz in *Life Essentials Study Bible*



# How to keep your promise in your marriage:

- *Remember...*

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# How to keep your promise in your marriage:

- *Remember that unfaithful thoughts lead to unfaithful actions (5:28, 32).*

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Finally, brothers, whatever is true,  
whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,  
whatever is commendable, if there is any  
excellence, if there is anything worthy of  
praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8



How to keep your promise in your marriage:

- *Remember that unfaithful thoughts lead to unfaithful actions (5:28, 32).*
- *Remember while your feelings may change, God's plan doesn't (Matt. 19:4-6).*
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How to keep your promise in your marriage:

- *Remember that unfaithful thoughts lead to unfaithful actions (5:28, 32).*
- *Remember while your feelings may change, God's plan doesn't (Matt. 19:4-6).*
- *Remember to listen to the friends that remind you of your promise (Prov. 27:6).*
- *Remember...*



How to keep your promise in your marriage:

- *Remember that unfaithful thoughts lead to unfaithful actions (5:28, 32).*
- *Remember while your feelings may change, God's plan doesn't (Matt. 19:4-6).*
- *Remember to listen to the friends that remind you of your promise (Prov. 27:6).*
- *Remember your promise was made before God (Mal. 2:13-16).*



<sup>13</sup> And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. <sup>14</sup> But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

Malachi 2:13-14



<sup>15</sup> Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. <sup>16</sup> “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

Malachi 2:15-16



<sup>33</sup> “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ <sup>34</sup> But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

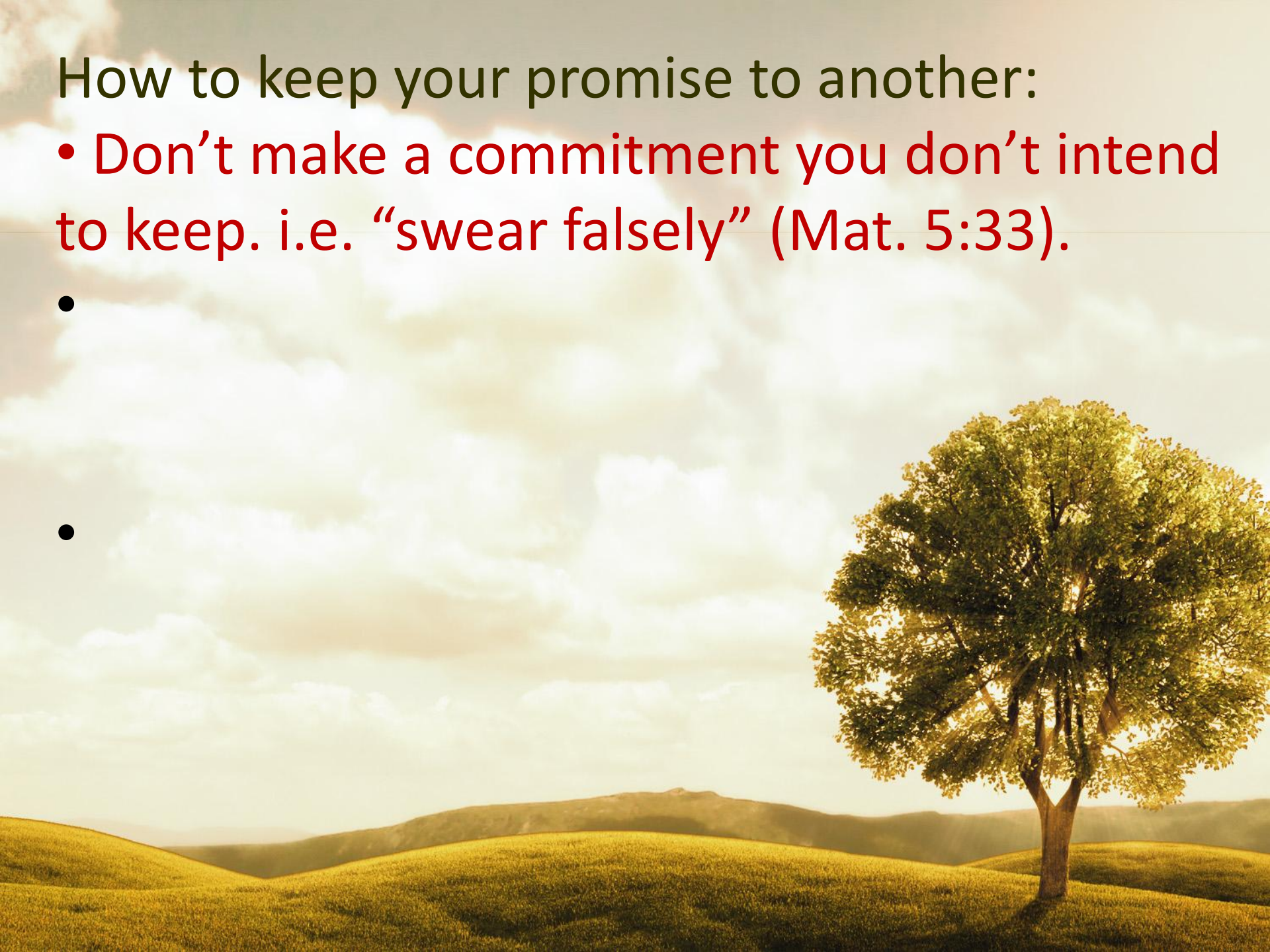
Matthew 5:31-37

How to keep your promise to another:

- Don't make a commitment you don't intend to keep. i.e. "swear falsely" (Mat. 5:33).

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How to keep your promise to another:

- Don't make a commitment you don't intend to keep. i.e. "swear falsely" (Mat. 5:33).
- See your commitment made to another as made before the Lord (Mat. 5:33-36; see also 23:16-22).

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Matthew 5:31-37

How to keep your promise to another:

- Don't make a commitment you don't intend to keep. i.e. "swear falsely" (Mat. 5:33).
- See your commitment made to another as made before the Lord (Mat. 5:33-36; see also 23:16-22).
- Let truth serve as a greater motivator than the approval of others (5:37; 23:5-12).



. . .And, when we make commitments we are to be totally honest, with no hidden agendas and no wavering for selfish reasons. When we say “Yes” or “No” we should mean what we say. This of course includes our marriage VOWS.

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