

Oct. 4

NEXT STEPS



Surprise The World "Integrity"

Matthew 5:33–37

Questions to *Dig Deeper*:

1. Because we are made in the image of God, our words have the power to create reality and shape our environments. When you reflect on your past week at work, home, or on-line, what kind of reality did your words create for the people around you?
2. Jesus warns against taking oaths or swearing by things to make ourselves sound convincing. In what subtle ways do we today try to force trust or leverage authority such as using Christian jargon, bringing up our faith as a trump card in arguments, or making grand promises rather than letting our standard word be enough?
3. Integrity is "doing what you said you would do, when you said you would do it, in the manner it was meant to be done." Which of these three parts is most challenging for you in daily life, and why is the "manner in which it's done" so critical for building real trust?
4. When we fail to keep our word, we first need to ask about the impact of our actions and listen without making excuses before apologizing. Why is sitting in that discomfort so hard, and how could practicing this step transform our personal and professional relationships?
5. Rather than using words to win arguments or project a certain image, Jesus calls us to live so that our faith naturally overflows from our hearts. What is one practical area of your life where you can focus less on convincing people with your words and more on demonstrating integrity through your actions?