Everyday Ethics #8 Pastor Rick Baker

June 5 2022

**Being a Truth-Teller and Peacemaker**

Matt. 5:33-42

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds

and PRAISE YOUR FATHER in heaven. (Matt. 5:16)

*Do you make God look good or easy to reject?*

In speech

In behaviour when mistreated

Two “higher living” principles that reflect a righteousness that surpasses that of the Pharisees...

**Do you mean what you say and say what you mean?**

 The protection of the trustworthiness of Christian speech

 The protection of the community that relies on truthful speech

***Do not swear at all****. Let your yes be yes and your no, no! (cf. Jas. 5:12)*

* *Less sacred things are still the holy property of God (heaven, earth, Jerusalem)*
* *Humans cannot command sovereign things or enjoin the Holy to things outside of one’s control*
* *Trustworthy people need no guarantor to the veracity of their speech*
* *Abusing the invocation of a Divine Guarantor to be deceptive is nothing short of the devil’s work*

Holy Spirit-filled citizens of the Kingdom of God are known for their *trustworthy speech* and the Heavenly Father is praised.

**Do you handle personal abuse/mistreatment with jaw-dropping grace?**

 Social justice vs. Kingdom (Christian) magnanimity

 Use evil intentions as a cause to starve self-idolatry...

* When dishonoured—do not fight for your honour
* When personal rights are violated—do not insist on your rights
* When you are exploited—be better than you have to be
* When you may be taken advantage of—give what will actually benefit another

Those in the Kingdom learn to deny themselves through *a certain way of handling mistreatment* that is intended to reveal Jesus Christ to their abusers and onlookers.