

# “How Do I Deal With My Dishonesty?”

## The Seriousness of Dishonesty:

“These are the things you are to do: **Speak the truth** to each other, and **render true and sound judgment** in your courts.”  
- Zechariah 8:16

“No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.”  
- Psalm 101:7

“Therefore each of you must **put off falsehood** and **speak truthfully** to his neighbour; for we are all members of one body.”  
- Ephesians 4:25

“Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist....” - Eph. 6:14

“**Do not lie** to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.”  
- Colossians 3:9

## Jesus Spoke of Two Kinds of Dishonesty

### 1. The Dishonesty of Not Fulfilling a Promise (Matt. 5:33-37)

A. In the Old Testament times people spoke oaths in God’s Name.

B. Jesus said, “don’t make oaths at all!” (Matthew 5:34) He meant not to make promises about things that really don’t matter.

C. The Jews had a system for making promises.

- My head
- Jerusalem
- The earth
- Heaven

What promises do we make that we don’t keep?

### 2. The Dishonesty of Not Telling the Truth (Matt. 15:18-20)

“But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man ‘unclean.’<sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what make a man ‘unclean’; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him ‘unclean.’”

- Matthew 15:18-20

## Three Ways of Speaking Falsely

### 1. Fabrication —

“After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.” <sup>74</sup>Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed.”  
- Matthew 26:73,74

### 2. Exaggeration —

“We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”  
- Numbers 13:33

### 3. Intimation —

“The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”  
- John 4:18

“With his wife’s full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles’ feet. <sup>3</sup>Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit?”  
- Acts 5:2,3

## So, What Should I Do With My Temptations with Dishonesty?

### 1. I should speak less.

“Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”  
- Matthew 5:37

“When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.”  
- Proverbs 10:19

### 2. I should be cautious about making promises.

### 3. I should be extremely accurate and even have others hold me accountable to the accuracy of my words.

### 4. I should pray for wisdom and sensitivity.

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