

## Let Your “Yes” be “Yes”

**James 1:12** But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment.

### Questions –

A person who keeps his word is a Disciple, or does a Disciple do his best to keep his word?

Does God hold your words seriously?

If we mess up, how does God our Father see us?

If we are ambassadors of God, which we are, should we learn to keep our words?

My parents taught me that your word should be as good as “GOLD.”

**Ecclesiastes 5:4-7** When you make a promise to God, don’t delay in following through, for God takes no pleasure in fools. Keep all the promises you make to him. <sup>5</sup>It is better to say nothing than to make a promise and not keep it. <sup>6</sup>Don’t let your mouth make you sin. And don’t defend yourself by telling the Temple messenger that the promise you made was a mistake. That would make God angry, and he might wipe out everything you have achieved. <sup>7</sup>Talk is cheap, like daydreams and other useless activities. Fear God instead.

### Three Comparisons:

#### I. Elisha:

**1 Kings 19:19-21** So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. <sup>20</sup>Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, “First let me go and kiss my father and mother goodbye, and then I will go with you!” Elijah replied, “Go on back, but think about what I have done to you.”  
<sup>21</sup>So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.

#### II. The Rich Young Man

**Matthew 19:16-22** Someone came to Jesus with this question: “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” <sup>17</sup>“Why ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments.” <sup>18</sup>“Which ones?” the man asked. And Jesus replied: ““You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. <sup>19</sup>Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.””  
<sup>20</sup>“I’ve obeyed all these commandments,” the young man replied. “What else must I do?”

<sup>21</sup>Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

<sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

### III. John Mark

The number one criteria for a book to be submitted in the Bible was authored by an Apostle or someone under the influence of an Apostle, Mark was not.

- John Mark – Mark was his Roman name and John was his Hebrew name.
- Acts 12:12 is John Mark's mother (Miriam).  
Acts 12:25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.
- Barnabas was Paul's traveling companion and John Mark's cousin.
- John Mark travels with Paul to Antioch, in the book of Acts.
- Mark was afraid because of the territory he is going into. Acts 13
- Barnabas requests that John Mark goes with him and Paul to Antioch and Paul refuses to take him with them, Barnabas and Paul have a strong disagreement over this. Barnabas sides with Mark after Paul refuse to travel with him.
- **What is that about?**  
It is believed that in the Gospel of Mark that there was a young man covered by a sheet in the garden and runs off naked in the night. It is believed that was Mark in the middle of the night.
  - **Mark 14: 50-52** Then all his disciples deserted him and ran away. <sup>51</sup> One young man following behind was clothed only in a long linen shirt. When the mob tried to grab him, <sup>52</sup> he slipped out of his shirt and ran away naked.
- Peter became his mentor, in 1 Peter is referring Mark as his son.
- What Mark was to Peter, Timothy was to Paul.
- Mark is with Peter before his death (execution).
- Peter denied the Lord three times and was scared for his life, it is believed that Peter had compassion for John Mark to take him under his wing.
- In 2 Timothy, at the end of Paul's life, he writes and tells Timothy to go to him and bring John Mark because he is valuable for him.
- John Mark is responsible for the revival of Christianity in North Africa. The people tortured him and dragged him through the city.
- This scared young boy became a man of God, leading a revival in the continent of Africa.
- It is very easy to give up on people.
- **Romans 5:17** (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;
- **Don't Give Up On People!**