

## What Will Keep You True to Your Word?

Matthew 5:33-37

1. What was the situation?
  - a. The Law \_\_\_\_\_ vows and oaths.
  - b. Rabbis had added many \_\_\_\_\_ rules.
  - c. The \_\_\_\_\_ of these rules was evil.
2. What did Jesus teach?
  - a. Vows and oaths are not wrong but \_\_\_\_\_ for the truthful.
  - b. The form of an oath cannot change God's \_\_\_\_\_ of truthfulness.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom will be people of their word.
3. How will we grow in obedience?
  - a. By meditating on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - b. By \_\_\_\_\_ your love for Jesus.
  - c. By cultivating love for your \_\_\_\_\_.

# BE DIFFERENT LIVE DIFFERENT

Matthew 5-7



ID



# What Will Keep You True to Your Word?

Matthew 5:33-37



## Matthew 5:33-37

Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, “You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.”



## Matthew 5:33-37

But I say to you, make no oath at all,  
either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,  
or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by  
Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall  
you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make  
one hair white or black.

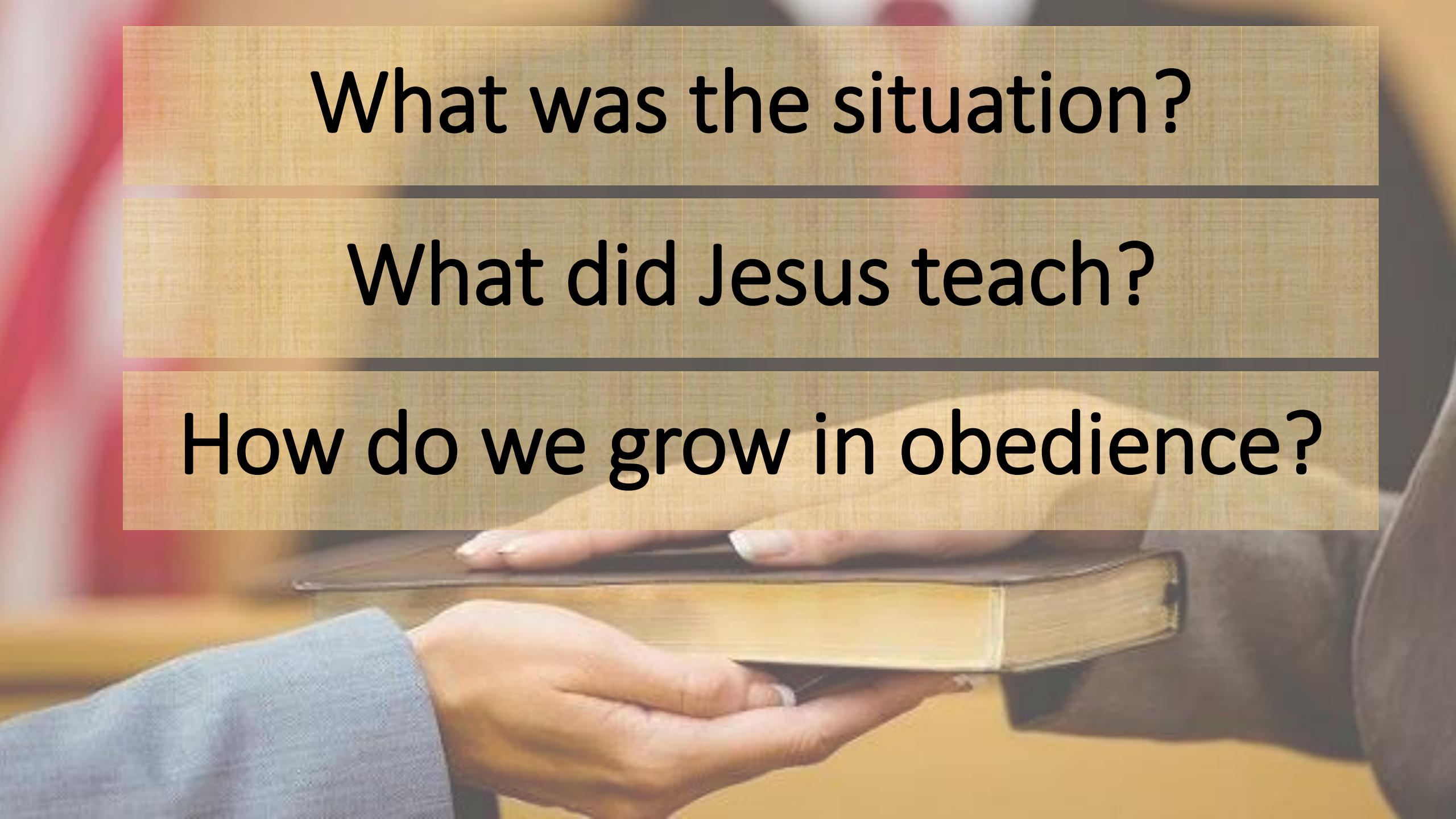
## Matthew 5:33-37

But let your statement be,  
“Yes, yes” or “No, no”;  
and anything beyond these is of evil.

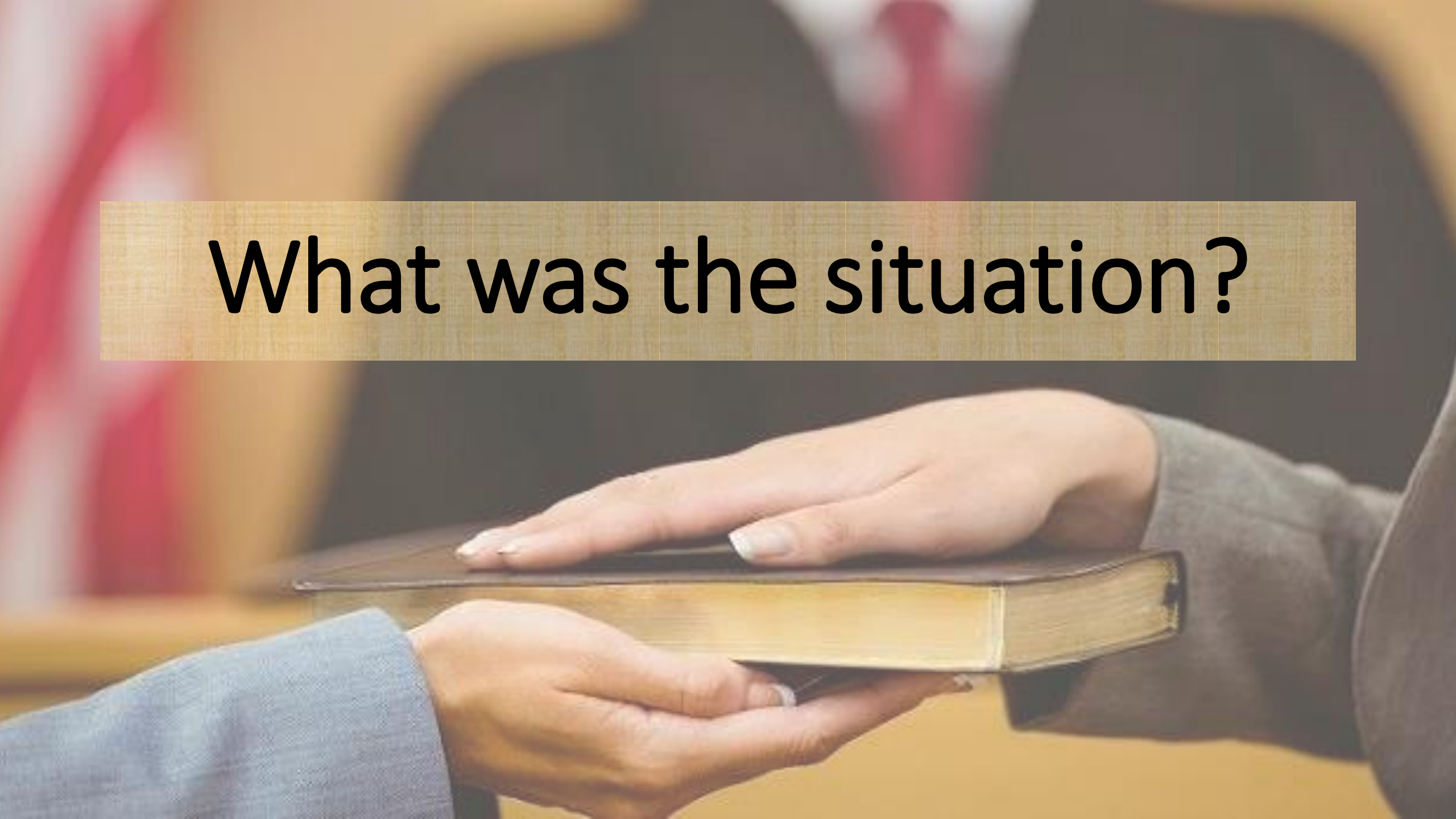
What was the situation?

What did Jesus teach?

How do we grow in obedience?



What was the situation?





# The situation...

**The Law of Moses regulated vows and oaths.**

## Matthew 5:33

Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, “You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.”

**Deuteronomy 6:13**

You shall fear only the LORD your God;  
and you shall worship Him, **and swear by His name.**

**Numbers 30:2**

If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or takes an oath to  
bind himself with a binding obligation,  
he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to  
all that proceeds out of his mouth.

**Vows and oaths served to  
solemnize significant statements  
and relational commitments.**



# The situation...

The Law of Moses regulated vows and oaths.

**But the rabbis had added many complicated rules to the Law.**

## Matthew 5:34-36

But I say to you, make no oath at all,  
either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,  
or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by  
Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall  
you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make  
one hair white or black.

# **Matthew 23:16-22**

# The situation...

The Law of Moses regulated vows and oaths.

Rabbis had added complicated rules.

**The heart of these rules was evil.**



## Matthew 5:37

But let your statement be,  
“Yes, yes” or “No, no”;  
and anything beyond these **is of evil.**

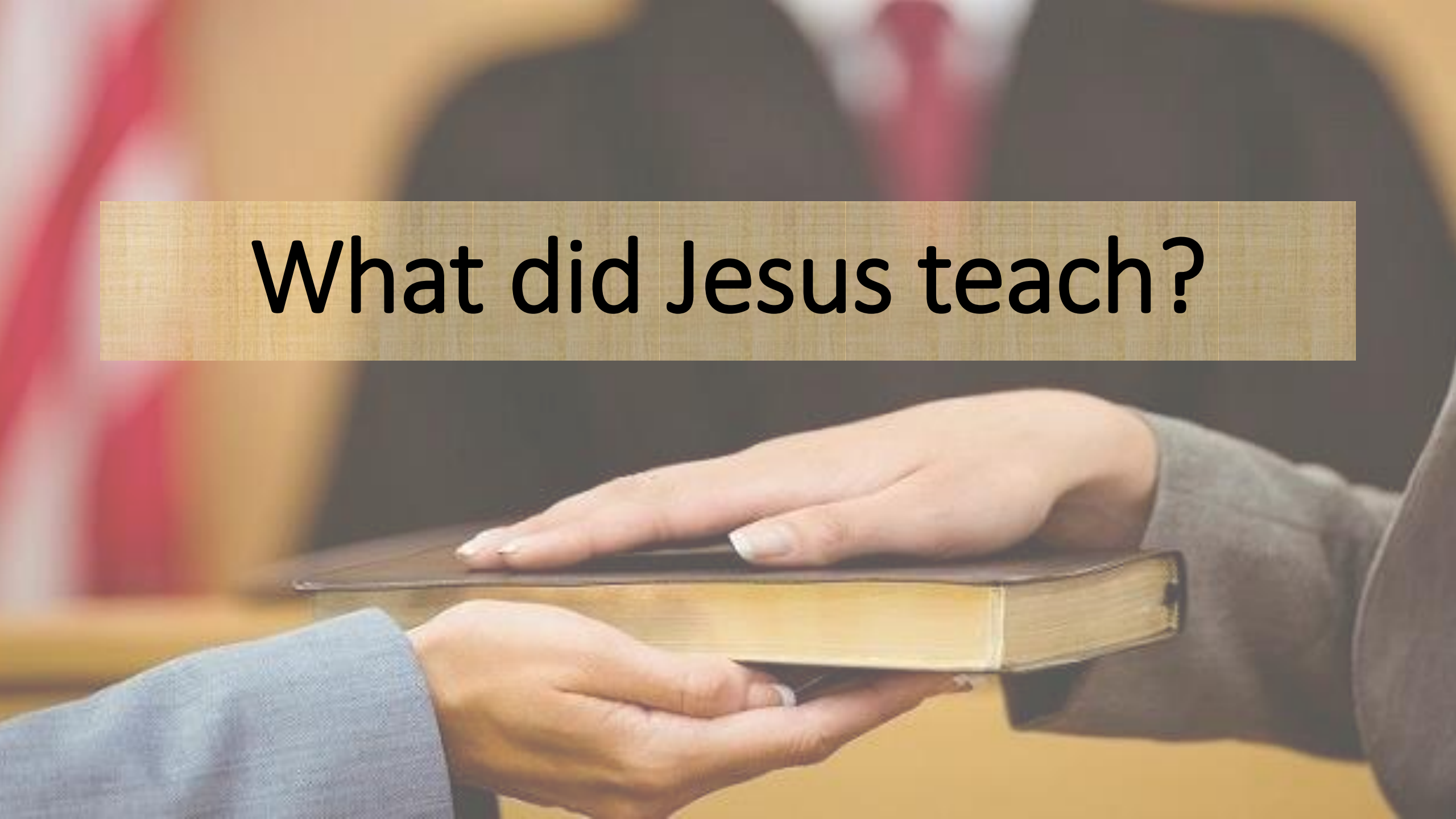
**What was at the heart of this  
piling up of regulations?**

**A desire for justifiable self-gratification.**

**A desire for justifiable self-preservation.**

A close-up photograph of a person in a dark suit and red tie holding a thick, old book. Another person's hand, wearing a light blue sleeve, is resting on top of the book. The background is blurred, showing more of the person in the suit and some red and yellow elements.

What was the situation?

A person wearing a dark suit and a red tie is shown from the chest down. Their hands are resting on a thick, old book with a dark cover. The background is blurred, showing a wooden surface and a red object. A semi-transparent wooden-textured banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

What did Jesus teach?



## Matthew 5:33-37

But I say to you, make no oath at all,  
either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,  
or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by  
Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall  
you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make  
one hair white or black. But let your statement be,  
“Yes, yes” or “No, no”...

# Jesus taught that...

**Vows and oaths are not wrong but are unnecessary for the truthful.**

# Matthew 5:33 and 37

But I say to you, make no oath at all...  
But let your statement be,  
“Yes, yes” or “No, no”...

**Truthful people do not need to make  
oaths to guarantee faithfulness.  
A simple “yes” or “no” will do.**



# Jesus taught that...

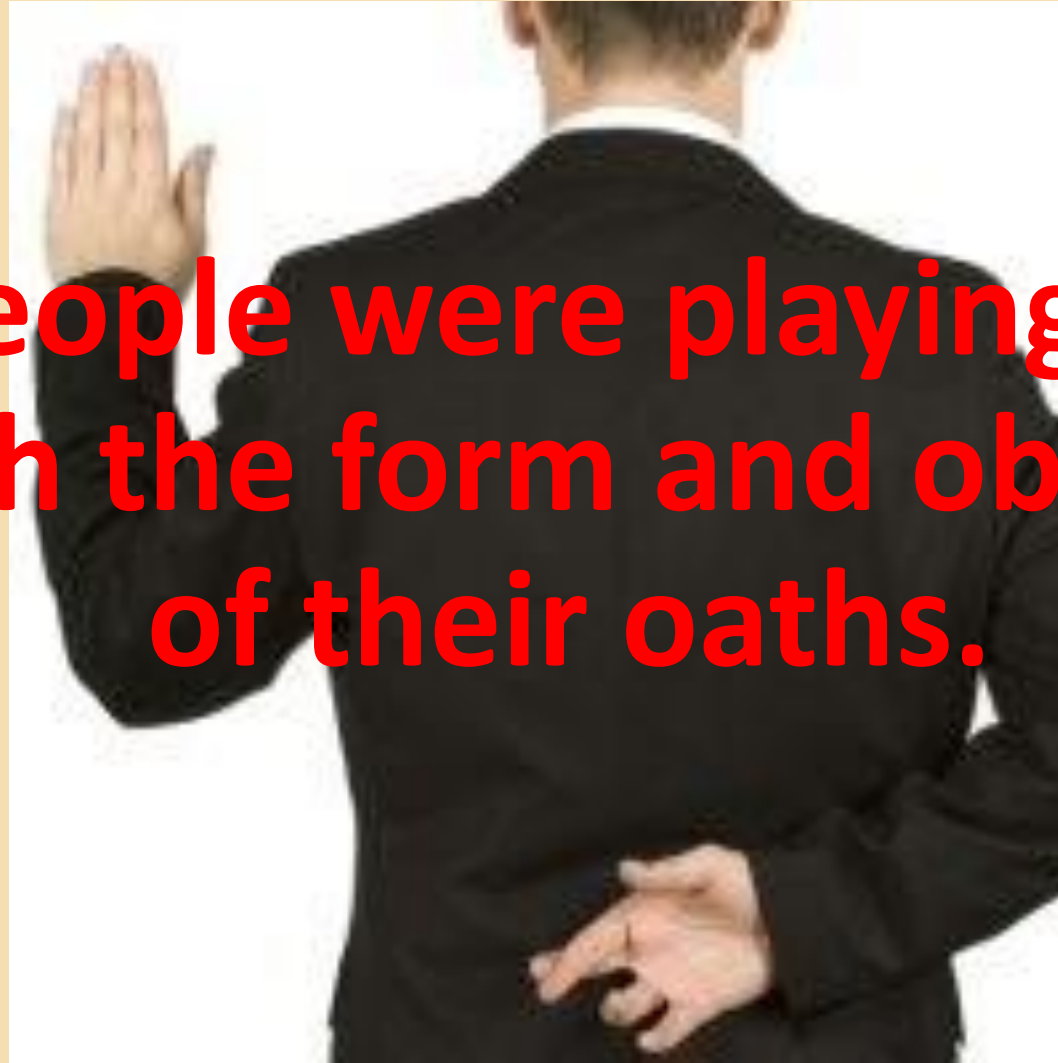
Vows and oaths are not wrong but are unnecessary for the truthful.

**The form of an oath cannot change God's expectation of truthfulness.**

## Matthew 5:33-37

But I say to you, make no oath at all,  
either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,  
or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet,  
or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.  
Nor shall you make an oath by your head,  
for you cannot make one hair white or black.

**The people were playing games  
with the form and objects  
of their oaths.**



## Matthew 5:33-37

But I say to you, make no oath at all,  
either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,  
or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet,  
or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.  
Nor shall you make an oath by your head,  
for you cannot make one hair white or black.

# Matthew 5:33-37

But I say to you, make no oath at all,  
either by **heaven**, for it **is the throne of God**,  
or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet,  
or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.  
Nor shall you make an oath by your head,  
for you cannot make one hair white or black.

# Matthew 5:33-37

But I say to you, make no oath at all,  
either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,  
or by **the earth**, for it **is the footstool of His feet**,  
or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.  
Nor shall you make an oath by your head,  
for you cannot make one hair white or black.



# Matthew 5:33-37

But I say to you, make no oath at all,  
either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,  
or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet,

or by **Jerusalem**, for it **is the city of the great King**.

Nor shall you make an oath by your head,  
for you cannot make one hair white or black.

# Matthew 5:33-37

But I say to you, make no oath at all,  
either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,  
or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet,  
or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.  
Nor shall you make an oath by your head,

for **you cannot make one hair white or black.**

**In other words, all oaths come under God's sovereign judgment regardless of form or object; and His expectation is truthfulness from the heart.**

## **James 5:12**

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; so that you may not fall under judgment.

## **James 5:12**

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;

**so that you may not fall under judgment.**

# Jesus taught that...

Vows and oaths are not wrong but are unnecessary for the truthful.  
The form of an oath cannot change God's expectation of truthfulness.

**Citizens of the kingdom will be people  
of their word.**



## Matthew 5:33 and 37

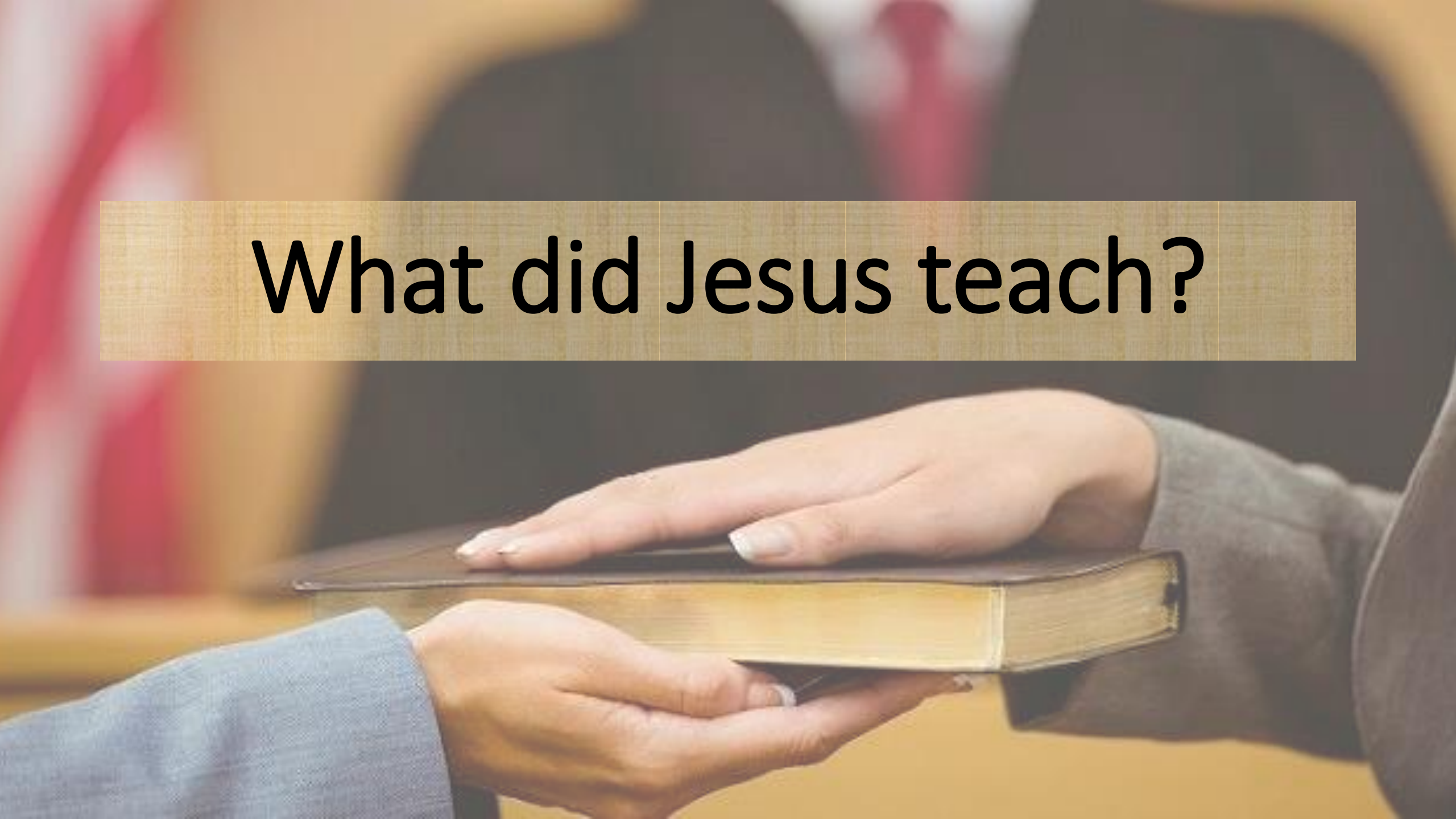
But I say to you, make no oath at all...  
But let your statement be, “Yes, yes” or “No, no”.

**The repetition is meant to indicate  
agreement between what is in the heart and  
what is on the lips.**

**People of their word...**

**Tell the truth.**

**Keep their commitments.**

A person wearing a dark suit and a red tie is shown from the chest down. Their hands are resting on a thick, old book with a dark cover. The background is blurred, showing a wooden surface and a red object. A semi-transparent wooden-textured banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

What did Jesus teach?

How do we grow in obedience?



**We grow in obedience...**

**By meditating on the faithfulness of God.**

## **2 Corinthians 1:18-20**

But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no. For the Son of God, Christ Jesus... was not yes and no, but is yes in Him.

For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.



***Motivation to be faithful will flow from  
meditation upon the One who is faithful.***

# We grow in obedience...

By meditating on the faithfulness of God.

**By deepening our love for Jesus.**

**John 14:23-24**

Jesus answered and said to him,

“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word...

He who does not love Me does not keep My words...”

***It is our love for Jesus that will most  
keep us constant to Him and others.***

# We grow in obedience...

By meditating on the faithfulness of God.

By deepening our love for Jesus.

**By cultivating love for our neighbors.**

## **Galatians 5:14**

For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

***Truth telling and commitment keeping  
demonstrate love and respect for others.***

What Will Keep You  
True to Your Word?

