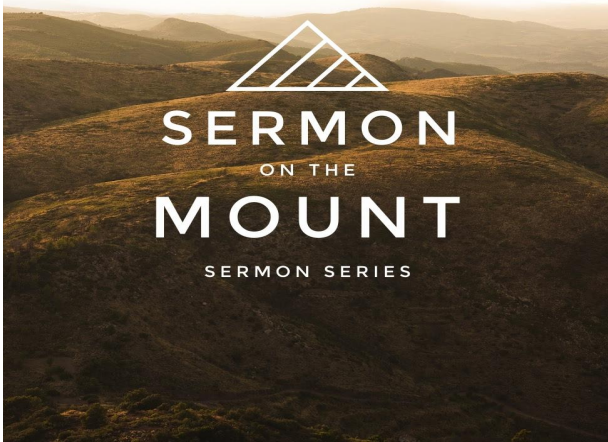


SERMON ON THE MOUNT: TIME TO GROW UP

February 19, 2023

Preaching: Jim Abernathy, Guest Preacher



MATTHEW 5:33-37,48

33 'Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord." 34But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.* 48Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. What are some oaths you have made in your life?
3. What are some reasons we might struggle to fulfill our promises, pledges or commitments?
4. What are some ways we can protect our time and energy to carry out our promises and commitments?
5. Saying "no" to good things is essential in order to say "yes" to the most important things. How comfortable or effective are you at saying "no"? Reflect and/or share about a time when you said "no" to something good because there was something more important you needed to protect or fulfill?
6. The language of perfection is loaded. What do you think Jesus means in verse 48? Is he saying don't make any mistakes... or something else?

South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4343 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington KY 40513

859-223-1433 southelkhorncc.org