

Series: Mirror on the Mount

Title: The Fine Print: What Jesus Really Said About Love, Sex & Promises

Date: 23 August 2026

Main Scripture: Matthew 5:27–37

When we stop looking for relationship **loopholes** and start living with Kingdom integrity, our love, sex, and promises become a clear mirror of God's faithful character.

1. THE FINE PRINT ON SEX: PURITY OVER PERFORMANCE

(Matthew 5:27–30)

- Jesus shifts the boundary line from physical action to internal **desire**.
- Culture treats lust as entertainment, but Jesus reveals it as a heart issue that **objectifies** people.
- Radical measures ("cut off your right hand") mean taking intentional steps to protect your **soul** and remove spiritual hazards.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." — Matthew 5:8

Personal Reflection: Integrity isn't about avoiding getting caught; it's about keeping your heart **pure** in private.

2. THE FINE PRINT ON LOVE: COVENANT OVER CONVENIENCE

(Matthew 5:31–32; Ephesians 5:31–32)

- A contract says: *"I'm in as long as my **needs** are met."*
- A covenant says: *"I'm in because I made a **vow**."*
- Jesus re-establishes marriage as an unbroken, sacred covenant that reflects God's **unwavering** love to our city.

Personal Reflection: How you honour commitments when it is hard shows the world what **God** is really like.

3. THE FINE PRINT ON PROMISES: NO LOOPHOLES, JUST TRUTH

(Matthew 5:33–37)

- Swearing elaborate oaths was used as a cover to sound trustworthy while leaving room to **lie**.
- Jesus calls for simple, transparent truthfulness: *"Let your 'Yes' be '**Yes**,' and your 'No,' '**No**.'"*
- If you need a dramatic oath or a complex contract to prove you are honest, your **character** is already compromised.

MY NEXT STEPS THIS WEEK

- **SURRENDER:** Ask God to cleanse any hidden areas of impurity or compromise in my life.
- **RESTORE:** Take a practical step to strengthen my marriage or family relationships.
- **ALIGN:** Let my "Yes" be "Yes" at home, in my workplace, and in my Connect Group.

KEY MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil." — **Matthew 5:37**