



*You've Heard
It Said...*

Simply Yes or No

MATTHEW 5:33-37

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Matthew 5:33-37

³³ “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’

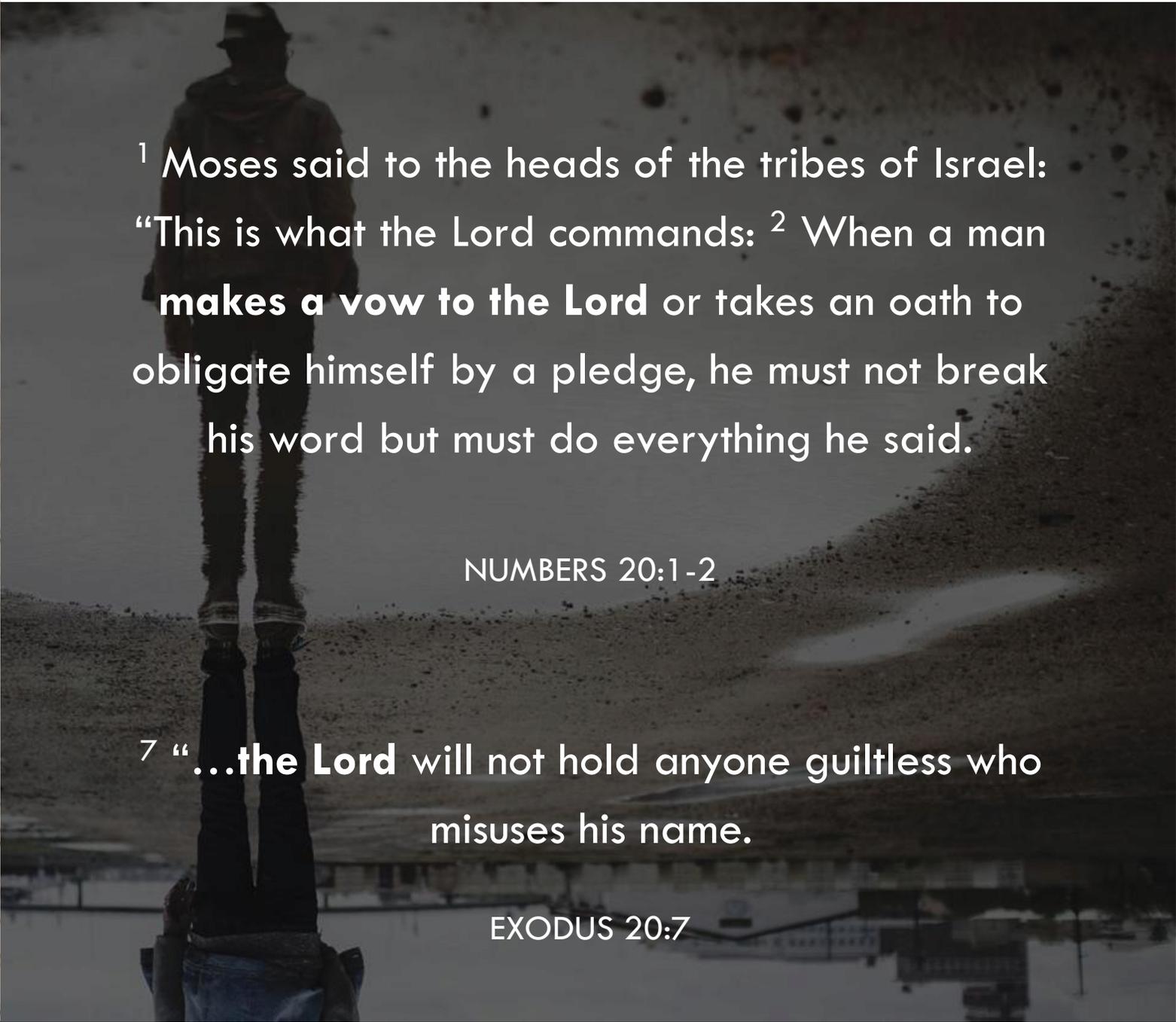
³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.

³⁷ All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

A person wearing a hat and a jacket stands on a wet, reflective surface, possibly a beach or a wet street. Their reflection is clearly visible in the water below them. The scene is dimly lit, with a dark, overcast sky. The overall mood is contemplative and somber.

Jesus is not critiquing Scripture.

**He is confronting what Scripture has
become in practice.**



¹ Moses said to the heads of the tribes of Israel:
“This is what the Lord commands: ² When a man
makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to
obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break
his word but must do everything he said.

NUMBERS 20:1-2

⁷ “**...the Lord** will not hold anyone guiltless who
misuses his name.

EXODUS 20:7

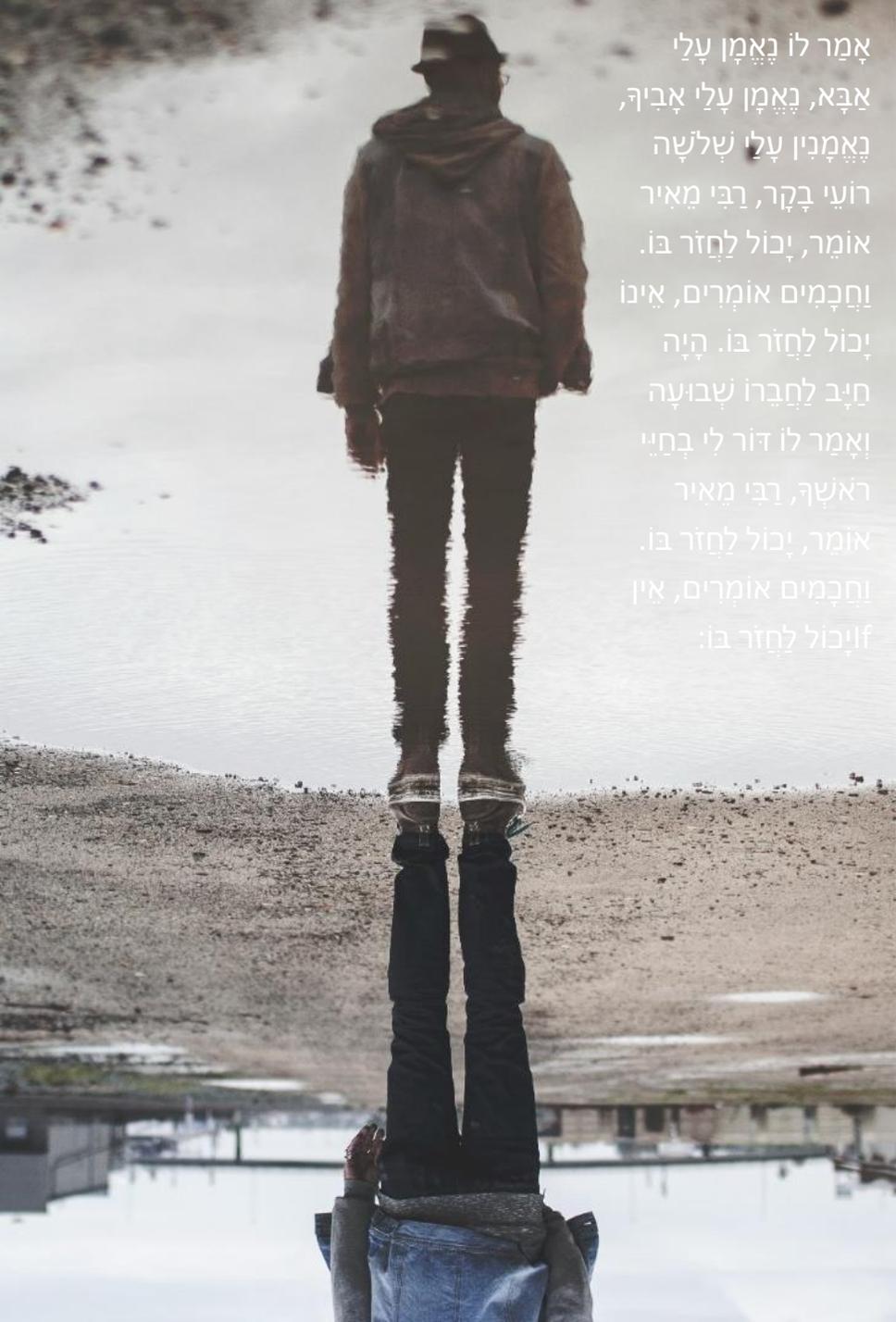


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NUMBERS 20:1-2

⁷ “...**the Lord** will not hold anyone guiltless who
misuses his name.

EXODUS 20:7



אמר לו נאמן עלי
אבא, נאמן עלי אביה,
נאמנין עלי שלשה
רועי בקר, רבי מאיר
אומר, יכול לחזור בו.
וחכמים אומרים, אינו
יכול לחזור בו. היה
תיב לחברו שבועה
ואמר לו דור לי בחיי
ראשה, רבי מאיר
אומר, יכול לחזור בו.
וחכמים אומרים, אין
אין יכול לחזור בו:

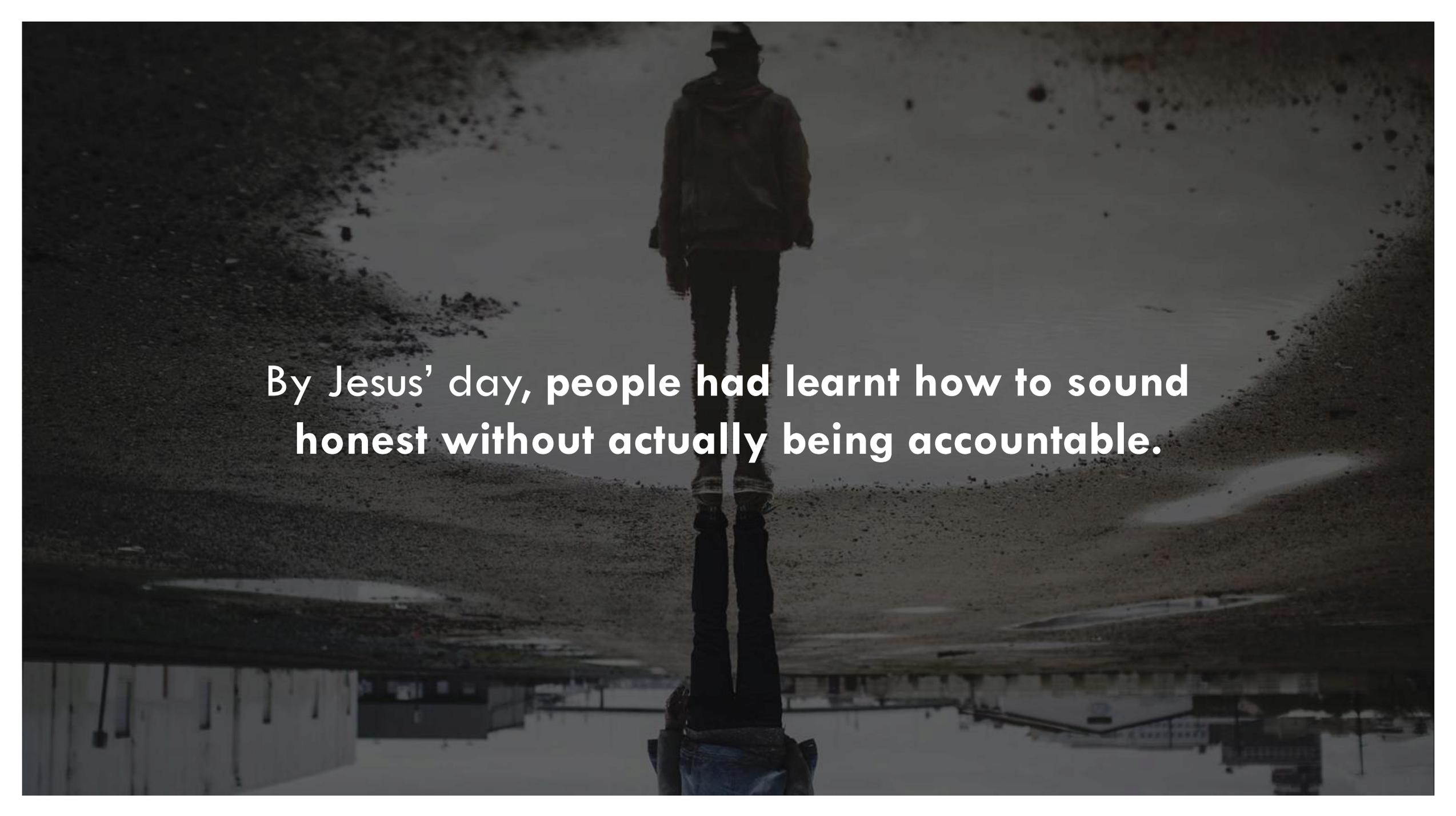
Mishnah Sanhedrin 3:2

For one who was obligated by Torah law to take an oath to another, which is done while grasping a sacred object.

If the latter said to him: **Instead of taking an oath, merely vow to me by the life of your head** that what you claim is true

Rabbi Meir says: The one who made the offer **can retract it**, and demand that the other litigant take an oath, as he is obligated to do by Torah law.

And the Rabbis say: He cannot retract his offer. Once he has agreed to accept **a vow, which is of less severity than an oath**, he cannot retract his agreement.

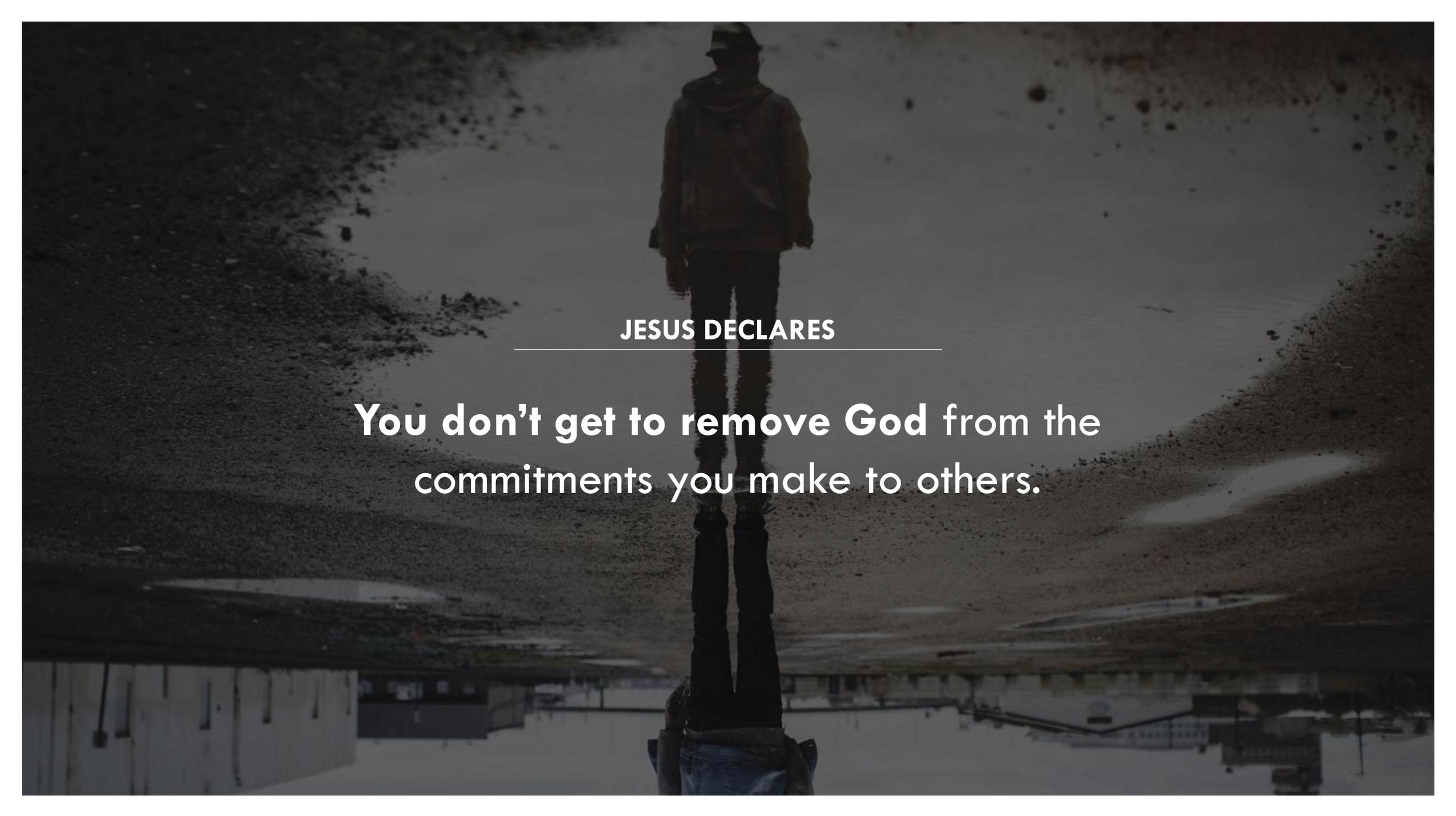
A dark, grainy photograph showing a person standing on the shoulders of another person. The person on top is wearing a hat and a jacket, and is looking away from the camera. The person on the bottom is wearing a blue jacket. The background is a dark, industrial or construction site with some structures and equipment visible. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

By Jesus' day, people had learnt how to sound honest without actually being accountable.



Matthew 5:34-36

³⁴ But I tell you, **do not swear an oath at all:** either by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.

A person wearing a hat and a jacket stands on a wet, reflective surface. Their reflection is clearly visible in a puddle in front of them. The scene is dimly lit, creating a somber and reflective atmosphere.

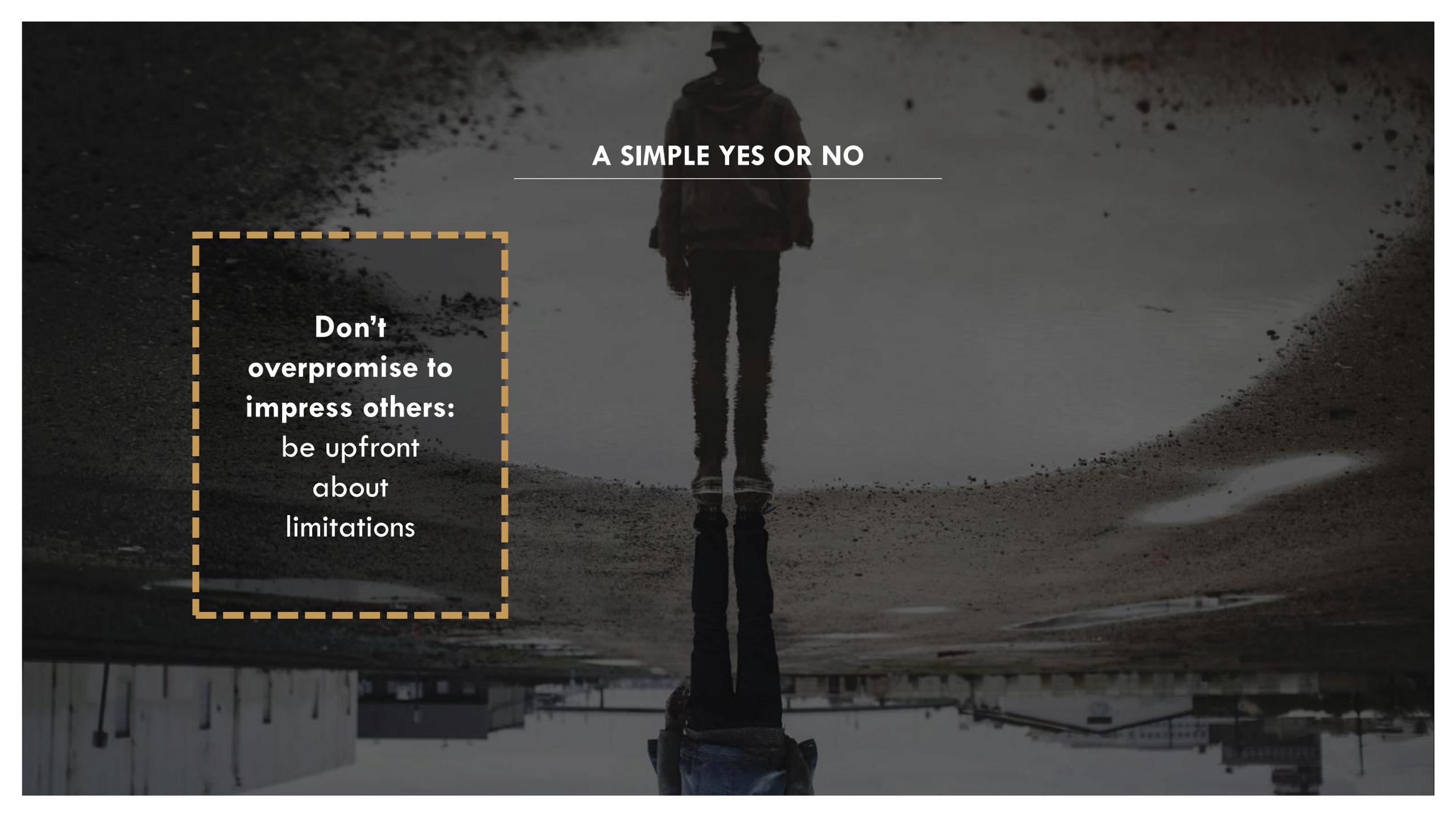
JESUS DECLARES

You don't get to remove God from the commitments you make to others.



Matthew 5:37

³⁷ All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this **comes from the evil one.**

A dark, moody photograph of two people standing in a snowy field. One person is standing on the shoulders of another person who is lying on their back. The scene is dimly lit, with snow covering the ground and some buildings visible in the background.

A SIMPLE YES OR NO

**Don't
overpromise to
impress others:
be upfront
about
limitations**

A person wearing a hat and a jacket stands on a tightrope high above a city. Below them, another person is seen from behind, balancing on their hands to support the person on the tightrope. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn.

A SIMPLE YES OR NO

**Don't
overpromise to
impress others:**
be upfront
about
limitations

**Don't take on
too much:**
leave space for
God to
interrupt.

A person wearing a hat and jacket stands on a snowy roof. In the foreground, the legs of another person are visible, suggesting they are standing on the roof with the first person. The background shows a snowy landscape with buildings and trees.

A SIMPLE YES OR NO

Don't overpromise to impress others:
be upfront about limitations

Don't take on too much:
leave space for God to interrupt.

Don't hide behind loopholes or excuses:
apologise honestly.