Matthew 5: 33-37
Jesus said to his disciples:
"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 
Do not take a false oath, 
but make good to the Lord all that you vow. 
But I say to you, do not swear at all; 
not by heaven, for it is God's throne; 
nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; 
nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 
Do not swear by your head, 
for you cannot make a single hair white or black. 
Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' 
Anything more is from the Evil One."

Our Scripture Reflection
With one verbal fell swoop, Jesus issues a huge critique of both the legal profession and political system in our country. “Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No’, or in other words...Say what you mean and MEAN what you say. Lying, double-talk, political correctness, psycho-babble have no place in the discourse of the true disciple. When we speak to another person we must always be aware that God is both our Witness and Judge
I do the very best I know how - the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, 10 angels swearing I was right would make no difference.

--Abraham Lincoln

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, With the constant help of Your Grace, may I strive to keep my words and actions holy and pure. May I realize that I am being judged in the public square as Your servant. Amen