



# THE HIGHEST GOOD

a series in the Sermon on the Mount

*Every Word of Equal Interest*

*Again you have heard it was said to those of old, 'you shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn. . . .*

v. 33



*. . .by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. . . by your head. . . .*

vv. 35-36



A.J. Jacobs

*I have a lying problem. Mine aren't big lies. They aren't lies like "I cannot recall that crucial meeting from two months ago, Senator." Mine are little lies. White lies. Half-truths. The kind we all tell. But I tell dozens of them every day. "Yes, let's definitely get together soon" "I'd love to, but I have a touch of the stomach flu." "No, we can't buy a toy today—the toy store is closed."*





A.J. Jacobs

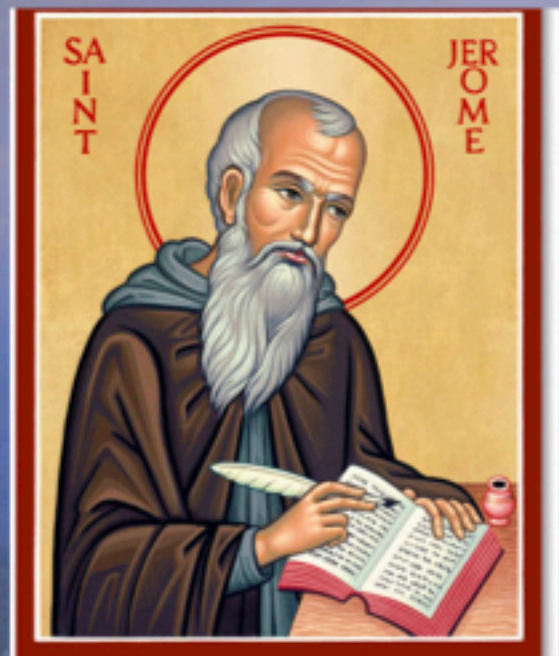
*It's bad. Maybe a couple of weeks of truth-immersion therapy would do me good.*

A.J. Jacobs  
*Radical Honesty*

*Let what you say be simply “Yes” or “No”;  
anything more than this comes from evil.*

v. 37





St Jerome (d. 420AD)

*Evangelical truth does not admit an oath since every word of a believer is considered an oath.*



A.J. Jacobs

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*If the Word was indeed made  
flesh, then it is demanded of  
men that their words and their  
lives be in concord. Only he  
who is true can speak the truth*

W.H. Auden