

James 5:12 – Stop Swearing

ANNOUNCEMENT: Audrey Broggi Conference on being a Titus 2 Woman, Feb. 20-21

INTRODUCTION

- What is the point of oaths/promises/swears?
 - _____
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- The Jews had a habit of swearing according to OT law and by the name of the _____.
- This practice became about making _____ oaths.
 - Only the oaths made in the name of the Lord were considered _____.
- Let's read Matt. 5:33-37
- This worldly practice was brought into the _____.
 - What types of unbiblical philosophies or practices are brought into church from the culture today?
 - _____
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- Believers are called to be honest, so things like promises, oaths, and swears become unnecessary.
 - If we are honest and have integrity, our word can be _____.
- James is giving a command to stop swearing
 - We see four features of this command in this verse: 1) The Distinction, 2) The Restriction, 3) The Instruction, and 4) The Motivation

THE DISTINCTION - "But above all, my brethren..."

- "But"
 - The Greek article (de) for "but" shows a _____ from the previous passage on facing trials patiently.
 - This shows that a new subject has been introduced, but it is still linked because it addresses a coming judgment like James did in 5:9.
- "above all"
 - This is a preeminent _____.
- James talks about speech sins in every chapter:
 - 1:26 – If you fail to control your tongue, it is evidence of an _____ heart.

- 2:12 – Believers show _____ speech.
- 3:2-11 – The tongue is powerful and difficult to _____. However, we must control it!
- 4:11 – Don't speak _____ against each other.
- How is speech a true test of faith?
 - _____
 -
- “brethren”
 - If they are believers, then they can indeed _____ this command.

THE RESTRICTION - “...do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath...”

- The swearing here refers to the complex oath _____ the Jews created.
 - This system worked as follows:
 - 1. Call on God to _____
 - 2. Invoke His punishment if one of the parties _____ their oath.
- What James is condemning: the Jews making oaths with the intent on breaking them.
 - It was an _____ of the oath system.
 - If they made an oath without God as witness, they did not believe that to be _____.
 - The key is motives!
- Let's read Josh. 2:12-20
- God even required _____ in His law. (Ex. 22:10-11)
- _____ makes oaths. (Heb. 6:13-17)
 - He did this in “gracious condescension to set an example of integrity for men to follow.” -J Mac
- “do not swear”
 - This is not a blanket _____ of all oaths.
 - They are only permitted in the _____.
- Let's go back to Matt. 5:33
 - Rabbinic teaching created a _____: only vows to the Lord were binding.
 - From this perspective, all other oaths could be _____ without sinning.
 - Like all sin, this sin starts in the heart with wrong _____.

THE INSTRUCTION - "...but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no..."

- People of _____ don't need to take elaborate oaths.
- Special circumstances may require swearing, but _____ circumstances don't.

THE MOTIVATION - "...so that you may not fall under judgment."

- Sometimes we need to be motivated by remembering that we have _____ for our actions.
- The third commandment (Ex. 20:7)
 - Swearing _____ is taking His name in vain.
- "judgment"
 - Greek is *krisis*
 - This word is never used to describe chastening of _____.
 - James used this word in 2:13 as a _____ for those who show no mercy.

CONCLUSION

If our lives are marked by an _____ habit of lying, we give evidence of an
_____ heart.