



James

Faith that Works

June 11, 2023

Can You Be Trusted?

James 5:12

“The President of the United States ordered me to break through the Japanese lines...for the purpose, as I understand it, of organizing the American offensive against Japan, a primary object of which is the relief of the Philippines. I came through and I shall return...” - General Douglas MacArthur

“People of the Philippines: I have returned.” - General Douglas MacArthur

Context and practice of oaths and swearing in the Old Testament period

Getting to the heart of the matter

Comparisons:

Matthew 5:34-37

Do not take an oath at all,
either by heaven...
or by the earth...
or by Jerusalem or by your head...
Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’;
anything more comes from evil.

James 5:12

Do not swear,
either by heaven...
or by earth...
or by any other oath...
but let your “Yes” be yes and your “no” be no,
so that you may not fall under condemnation.

Be the person who doesn’t need to make an oath!

What about marriage vows, court oaths, and contracts?

Other Scripture: Exodus 20:16; Leviticus 19:12; Matthew 5:33-37

Further Study

Read: James 5:12 and Matthew 5:34-37 in your group or with at least one other person.

1. Have someone read it while everyone reads along.
2. Have someone else read it while everyone else listens.
3. Have someone recount the text from memory in their own words.

Discuss:

1. What does the passage reveal about God?
2. What does the passage reveal about humanity?

Act:

1. If this passage is from God, what should change about how you live?
2. Who needs to hear the truth of this Scripture that you can share it with this week? Identify a time this week when you might have the opportunity to share with them.