

Radically Simple Truth: A Calling for Christian Credibility

August 14 2022 | Deep End Faith | James 5:12 | Pastor Mike Foster

Truth telling is not a game but a high calling for Christians with serious implications for our worship and our witness.

- Beware the evil of deception

- Our age of deception

- The father of lies

- The sin of our hearts

- Commit to radically simple truth telling

- Say what you mean and do what you say!

- Because God is not playing around!

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. In James' day, people used oaths as a way of deceiving others and avoiding accountability (see Matthew 5:34-37). What are some ways people are tempted to deceive others today?
3. In your own words, explain what it means to "let your yes be your yes, and your no be your no."
4. Who is someone in your life who lives out James 5:12 in a faithful way? What impact does this person have as a result of their integrity and credibility?
5. Read Colossians 3:9-10. According to this passage, what kinds of practices are part of the "old self"? What does it look like for a Christian to "put on the new self"?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 1:18-20. What do we learn about Jesus in this passage, and what does it mean for us?
7. James says... "Above all..." and "...or you will be condemned/judged" (5:12). Why do you think God takes this so seriously? What are some things at stake in this?
8. Practically speaking, how can we grow in "saying what we mean and doing what we say"? What would it look like to get serious about obeying this verse?
9. What difference might it make in the world if Christians lived with the kind of integrity James calls us to in this one verse (5:12)?
10. Spend some time praying (Praise – Repent – Ask – Yield) for one another to grow in radical truth telling and for the world to know the truth of the gospel!

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Memorize James 5:12! Continue using the Scripture Memory
- Fellowship App to memorize James!
- Read Matthew 5:34-37, John 8:42-47, Romans 3:9-26, 2 Corinthians 1:15-22, Colossians 3:9-10
- Read "Let your Yes be Yes" – www.marriageprac.com/let-your-yes-be-yes/
- Read "Truth, Honesty, and Deception in the Workplace" – www.theologyofwork.org/key-topics/truth-deception
- Read "Christians, Conspiracy Theories, and Credibility" – <https://research.lifeway.com/2021/02/01/christians-conspiracy-theories-and-credibility-why-our-words-today-matter-for-eternity/>
- Listen to "May the Words of my Mouth" – www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6EkmvRxfHo
- Listen to "Turn your Eyes" – www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2tKVqZZil4