



Sunday, June 6, 2010: Oaths and Anointings

Scripture: James 5:12-20

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. James urges the church to persevere in trials.
2. One of the primary temptations when you're under pressure is an improper use of speech.
3. First, James warns against improper use of oaths; if we're people of the truth, we don't need to use oaths in trivial matters.
4. In Matthew 5:34-37, Jesus commands us not to use improper oaths but rather practice honest speech.
5. Formal oaths are appropriate for court or marriage.
6. Appropriate use of oaths is found in Galatians 1:20; Psalm 110:4
7. Truth-speaking is the foundation of western law and culture.
8. Perjury is a serious offense in the law. (Psalm 109:19-20)
9. Light use of oaths is a declaration of independence from God.
10. God swears by Himself since there is no greater source of sovereignty and authority. (Isaiah 45:22-23)
11. In lawless speech, we're undermining the sovereignty of God.
12. Much of what comes from today's pulpits is blasphemous because the things of God are winked at and treated lightly.
13. Every culture will protect its basic idea of sovereignty by putting a legal fence around what you can or cannot say.
14. Human Rights Tribunals are used to protect the sovereignty claimed by the humanistic state.
15. If there's no absolute morality, there can be no real criminals; they're just pioneers of a new morality.
16. V13: Prayer is an effective way to respond in struggles.
17. V14: Let the sick call for the leaders of the church to anoint them with oil. (Cf. Titus 1:5-7; Acts 20:17-38; 1 Peter 5:1-4)
18. Anointing with oil is symbolic of the Spirit empowering His children.

19. The anointing of the Spirit is for every believer. (1 John 2:20)
20. Some physical problems are a result of sinful living.
21. Oil may have had a medicinal use, but it is God who heals in every case whether directly or through medicine and doctors.
22. In 1 Corinthians 11 some were getting sick and dying because of sin.
23. We're to act as a Kingdom of priests and to pray for one another, effectually. Apply the word of God. Speak the truth.
24. V17: Elijah was greatly used by God, but God may use us for something greater.
25. Be merciful to those facing difficulties; don't judge; allow the offices God has established to be custodians of judgment.
26. Watch out for those who stray. Seek to restore them. Seek restoration, to save them from eternal death.

Application Questions:

1. What is the significance of oaths in the Bible?
2. Give some examples of proper and improper uses of oaths.
3. What are the consequences of untruthfulness in the following areas: business, law, banking, marriages, church families?
4. How is false witness and perjury an attack on God?
5. How does the modern state enforce blasphemy laws to protect its sovereignty?
6. How should we respond when we're struggling? How should we respond when we're joyful? (cf. James 5:13)
7. Am I regularly praying with and for other believers?
8. Do I seek to restore those who stray, or do I distance myself and judge them?