



Human Oaths + Divine Allegiance [Matthew 5:33-37; Leviticus 5:4-7]

exercise

James talked about rash vows vs. waiting on the Lord (James 5:7-12).

Break out into smaller groups and read the scenarios together then do the following.

- 1. Imagine any rash vows/oaths the person would take in the given scenario. Write them down and then share them with the entire group. Remember, the vow itself can be positive or negative.**
- 2. For each vow, imagine a different response that would, in your mind, demonstrate “waiting on the Lord.”**

- **Sam** lends his car to his housemate to who wants to help another friend move her apartment. The car is returned with trash and debris inside and there are even a few scrapes on the driver's door and on the interior.
- **Joan** has never been camping - growing up, her family rarely took her places to have family time together. On this trip with four other women, she realizes she is having an incredible time.
- After only three months of marriage, **Julie** discovers that her husband is having an affair. Her own sister is engaged to be married in just six weeks.
- Three couples meet at church through a small group. They hit it off - **George** can't believe that he's found such loving, trustworthy and fun friends. In fact, this is the first time in his life he's felt this depth of friendship with two guys.
- **Tim** just got off the phone with his mom. She mentioned again how she's disappointed with him for quitting law school to pursue his dream of being an actor.

--

text

How does Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:33-37 help your interpretation of Leviticus 5:4-7?

Why do you think Leviticus 5 teaches that swearing a rash oath is a sin?

What is the difference between a rash oath and an oath?

Read James 4:13-17; 5:7-12

How does James illuminate the passages in Matthew and Leviticus?

What is the *spirit* that James is addressing in this passage? Is this *spirit* present in the other passages?

How does James practically propose that we address the *spirit*?

--

community

James shared about how he took a rash vow to “get it right” with Carol just a few months into their dating relationship.

Can you relate to such a vow?

What rash vows, if any, have you made in the past?

How has such vows affected you in relationships, work, and worship?

Leviticus shares that rash vows we’ve made are very often hidden from us. In fact, they only become sin when we realize we’ve made them. (Lev. 5:4)

As a group, decide if you want to revisit this discussion in two weeks to see if there are any rash vows that come to awareness.