GRACE NOTES

Sermon Series: JAMES: REAL FAITH FOR REAL LIFE
Message: Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say
Scripture: James 5:12
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2016

Now above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. Your "yes" must be "yes," and your "no" must be "no," so that you won't fall under judgment. (James 5:12, HCSB)

"But I tell you, don't take an oath at all: either by heaven, because it is God's throne; or by the earth, because it is His footstool; or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. Neither should you swear by your head, because you cannot make a single hair white or black. But let your word 'yes' be 'yes,' and your 'no' be 'no.' Anything more than this is from the evil one." (Matthew 5:34-37)

An oath is a solemn promise that typically invokes a witness.
Often this witness is God.

<u>How Do We Put James' Words into Practice?</u>

Be <u>aware</u> of your own tendency to lie or even shade the truth.

Ask yourself what is <u>motivating</u> you to deceive.

Consider the cost to your personal <u>peace</u> when you do lie - and if it doesn't bother you, there's something really wrong inside.

Consider the cost to your <u>integrity</u> when you lie.

When you do lie, go to God immediately to <u>confess</u> and <u>repent</u>.

If you need to confess and apologize to the person you lied to or about, then do so, but do it <u>gently</u>.

Don't take lying <u>lightly</u>.

Your integrity and my integrity matter. Our personal integrity is a direct reflection on our faith and the Savior in whom we have placed our faith.