

JAMES (5:7, 12)

Lesson 25: Precious Things / Oaths

3 July 2020

PRECIOUS THINGS: James 5:7 speaks of “**the precious fruit of the earth.**” If God were not providing what was needed to form and nourish the seed that the farmer planted, there would be no fruit at all. “Precious” speaks of price, worth, or value. Things that are very rare are considered most valuable. What are the precious things according to the word of God?

THE WORD OF THE LORD (1 Samuel 3:1)

God does not speak openly to men today. Everything God wants us to know has been preserved in the Holy Scriptures. It’s the only book that has God as the author and not a man. That makes it precious.

THE SOUL (Psalm 49:7-8)

God counts the redemption of your soul to be very valuable because you only have one and it is eternal, worth more than the whole world (Mark 8:36, Matt 16:26).

THE BLOOD OF MARTYRS (Psalm 72:14, Psalm 116:15)

Most Christians won’t take a stand for the Lord. That makes those who are faithful to the death a very precious thing in God’s eyes. It’s a blessed day when God gets to call His child home. It’s rare (Matt 7:14).

THE GOSPEL (Psalm 126:6)

The word of God is very precious, especially when you carry it to the world and sow it in the hearts of men.

KNOWLEDGE (Proverbs 20:15)

It is rare to find someone who is teaching the truth.

WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING (Proverbs 3:13-15)

There are not many people who use their knowledge properly and fewer that include God in their thinking.

GOD’S THOUGHTS (In His word) (Psalm 139:17)

Few people desire to know what God thinks about their actions and their way of living. Those who know God consider themselves very fortunate to have His instructions and His very thoughts about our lives.

JESUS CHRIST (Mark 14:3)

Precious ointment was poured on the head of the Lord Jesus, who was counted as even more precious.

REWARDS EARNED BY THE SAINTS (1 Corinthians 3:12)

Rewards are precious because they’re only given to those who serve the Lord, motives are taken into account (1 Cor 9:17), and rewards can be lost (2 Jn 8).

JESUS CHRIST AND HIS BLOOD (1 Peter 1:18-19, 2 Peter 2:4)

There is only one Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who alone has the precious blood that can wash away sins.

OUR FAITH (2 Peter 1:1) Faith in God is a rare thing.

GOD'S PROMISES (2 Peter 1:4) bestowed upon the few faithful.

OATHS, VOWS, and SWEARING

(James 5:12) When you swear that you will do something, you are making a vow before God. Work on developing a reputation of being a person whose "yea" means yea and whose "nay" means nay, eliminating the need of an oath.

Leviticus 5:4-10 This passage shows that oaths are a serious thing before God. Among the Hebrews, if a person swore to do something and failed to do it, they were guilty. Their sin required a blood sacrifice. That's why James said it's better not to swear at all.

Numbers 30:1-16

1. Vows and oaths are made "unto the LORD" (vs 2).
2. A father has authority over his own daughter to disannul her vow (3-5) for her protection.
3. A husband has authority to disannul his wife's vow for her protection (6-8).
 - a. There is equality in Christ (Gal 3:28), but there is a chain of authority (not superiority) for the purpose of order and structure in the home (Eph 5:22).
 - b. Jesus Christ is equal with the Father, but He submitted Himself for the purpose of running the universe with perfect order (Philippians 2:6-7).
4. The widow or the divorced woman has nobody to protect them from vows (vs 9).
 - a. She is vulnerable to deception (1 Tim 2:14) by evil men and seducers.
5. When a man disannuls his wife's or daughter's vow, she is granted forgiveness for the sin of breaking her vow to God (10-12).
6. The man has the opportunity to confirm his wife's vow (by holding his peace) or to make it void, but he must do it on the day she made the vow (13-16).

Ecclesiastes 5:1-6 Consider your words carefully. It is foolish to make a vow to God when you can't be sure you'll be able to keep it. It's better not to make a vow (vs 5) than to make a vow and break it (James 5:12), which is sin. Don't bind yourself with an oath.
