

FAITH + WORKS

JAMES



# James 5:7–9, 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

- We can be patient through suffering because one day Jesus will come back.
- The people of Israel were expecting a Messiah to come fight their enemies and usher in the kingdom of God.
- The Old Testament prophets also spoke of Messiah as a suffering servant who would die for His people (Isaiah 53).



# James 5:7–9, 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

- The people to whom James was writing were really suffering.
- They were experiencing persecution for their faith and social and spiritual conflict.
- James encouraged them to be patient through the hard times and hold on to the promise that Jesus is coming back to make all things new.



# James 5:7–9, 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

- James compared it to the farmer who must wait through the early and late rains to finally see the fruit of the harvest.
- In the ancient world, there were two major rainy seasons.
- The early rains typically fell in the fall, softening the ground for planting. Later rains came in the spring, bringing crops to maturity for the harvest.



# James 5:7–9, 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

- The farmer waits and trusts that the Lord will provide the harvest.
- God's people must also trust that the Lord will do what He promised and wait patiently for the day Christ comes again.
- But that doesn't mean we just sit around and wait.



# James 5:7–9, 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

- The farmer does what he can to plant, water, and fertilize the crop, though he knows only God can produce the growth (1 Corinthians 3:5–9).
- While we wait for Jesus to return, we should do what we can to build the kingdom of God here on earth, to draw people to Him and bring the ministry of reconciliation to the world (2 Corinthians 5:17–20).



# James 5:10–11, Job 1, Romans 5:3–5

- It is possible to endure much suffering but remain faithful to God.
- Job gives us wisdom through the story of one righteous man. Job was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.
- He even made daily sacrifices on behalf of his children just in case they had sinned and didn't realize it.



# James 5:10–11, Job 1, Romans 5:3–5

- Satan said Job only honored God because God had blessed him and because he never had any trials in his life. God agreed, trusting Job to remain faithful to Him no matter what the circumstance, which he did.
- Even when Job lost everything he had, including his children, he responded, “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:21).



# James 5:10–11, Job 1, Romans 5:3–5

- When his friends tried to convince him that he must have done something wrong, Job spoke against that theology the same way Jesus did when His disciples encountered the blind man and asked who had sinned, him or his parents, to earn being born blind.
- Jesus said neither. Jesus said the man was born blind so God's glory could be shown in him when Jesus healed him of his blindness (John 9:1–7).



# James 5:10–11, Job 1, Romans 5:3–5

- Job did not do anything wrong to deserve suffering.
- That's not how God works. Suffering is simply a natural part of life in this fallen world.
- God does not cause suffering (James 1:13), but God is able to redeem suffering for our good.
- Romans tells us that suffering produces perseverance.



# James 5:10–11, Job 1, Romans 5:3–5

- Just as “suffering” through exercise gives us greater endurance to handle more exercise, so suffering in this world gives us greater endurance to handle more suffering.
- Perseverance builds character, so that we do not become entitled and self-centered, where we think that we deserve to have everything handed to us.



# James 5:10–11, Job 1, Romans 5:3–5

- The example of how Job lived his life and how so many prophets and apostles endured great suffering for the name of Jesus should encourage us that we can have the strength to remain steadfast in the midst of suffering.
- In the letters to the seven churches in Revelation, Jesus told all those who persevered and overcame the struggles of this world that they would receive everlasting life and blessing in His kingdom (Revelation 2).



# James 5:10–11, Job 1, Romans 5:3–5

- No matter what you are going through, God can redeem it for your good.
- No matter how hard things are, you can remain faithful to God when you put your trust in Him and believe He has a plan and a purpose in it all and is using it for your good.
- No matter what you are going through, God can redeem it for your good (Romans 8:28-29).



# James 5:12, Matthew 5:33–37

- Godly people don't need to swear by anything; their word alone is trustworthy.
- In the ancient world, oaths were a common practice used to bind agreements. Swearing by something greater than you was intended to add weight to your words.
- People took an oath when the other person didn't trust they would keep their promise.



# James 5:12, Matthew 5:33–37

- The Old Testament law taught God's people to keep the oaths they made to Him because He is holy and they didn't want to dishonor Him, but Jesus warned against making oaths in the first place.
- In Jesus' day, the rabbis had created myriad rules about binding and nonbinding oaths, which was really just a system to get out of keeping them.



# James 5:12, Matthew 5:33–37

- Some rabbis taught swearing by Jerusalem was not binding, but swearing toward Jerusalem was.
- Some taught that swearing by the temple wasn't binding, but swearing by the gold in the temple was.
- Some distorted Leviticus 19:12 to say that as long as you didn't use God's name, you were free to break it.



# James 5:12, Matthew 5:33–37

- This completely defeated the purpose of oaths.
- This was just one way the legalistic rule-follower types distorted the whole purpose of the law.
- The law was meant to make you more honest, but they used it to get away with being dishonest.
- These oaths no longer fostered truthfulness.



# James 5:12, Matthew 5:33–37

- This verse is often taken out of context as a stand-alone verse because it reads like a proverb.
- As wisdom literature, much of James's letter sounds like proverbs.
- But this statement was included in its context for a reason.



# James 5:12, Matthew 5:33–37

- James was talking about persevering through suffering – patiently waiting for Jesus to come back to make all things new and remaining faithful to the Lord no matter what the world throws our way.
- Keeping your word is a part of perseverance.
- It is a type of steadfastness. It is part of faithfulness.



# James 5:12, Matthew 5:33–37

- When we live like Jesus, there is no need to take an oath to increase our credibility because people will be able to trust our word.
- When we embody the character of Jesus, we will be trustworthy and reliable; when we say we will do something, no one would ever doubt us.



# James 5:12, Matthew 5:33–37

- We will have no need to create rules for when we must keep our word and when we can legally get out of it, because we will always want to keep our word.
- This is one of the trademarks of someone who really knows Jesus.
- Jesus is the truth; Satan is the father of lies. Those who know Jesus live and walk in truth.



# Oaths and Lying



# Oaths and Lying

- Lying has become a way of life.
- 60% of Americans can't have a 10-minute conversation without lying at least once.
- Most people tell an average of four lies per day.
- 13% of people admit to lying and 32% to “stretching the truth” to their doctor.



# Oaths and Lying

- 30% of people lie about their diet and exercise regimens.
- 31% of people admit to lying on their resumes.
- The average child begins to tell lies between the ages of two and three.
- 70% of liars claim they would tell the same lies again.



# Oaths and Lying

- Lying never pays off in the long run.
- We learn that lying is not only inconsistent with God's character, but it also almost never actually works.
- Lies are almost always found out. Most of us have experienced this. Once you start lying, you have to tell more lies to cover up the original lie, and it snowballs until you just can't control it anymore.



# A Culture of Lying

U.S. & WORLD

INDEPTH

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

## ‘You can’t handle the truth’: 96 percent of Americans admit to lying

By Amy Choate-Nielsen, Columnist & contributor | Mar 28, 2014, 6:10pm EDT

*By Amy Choate-Nielsen  
Deseret News*

### OPINION

## When did lying become the new normal in America



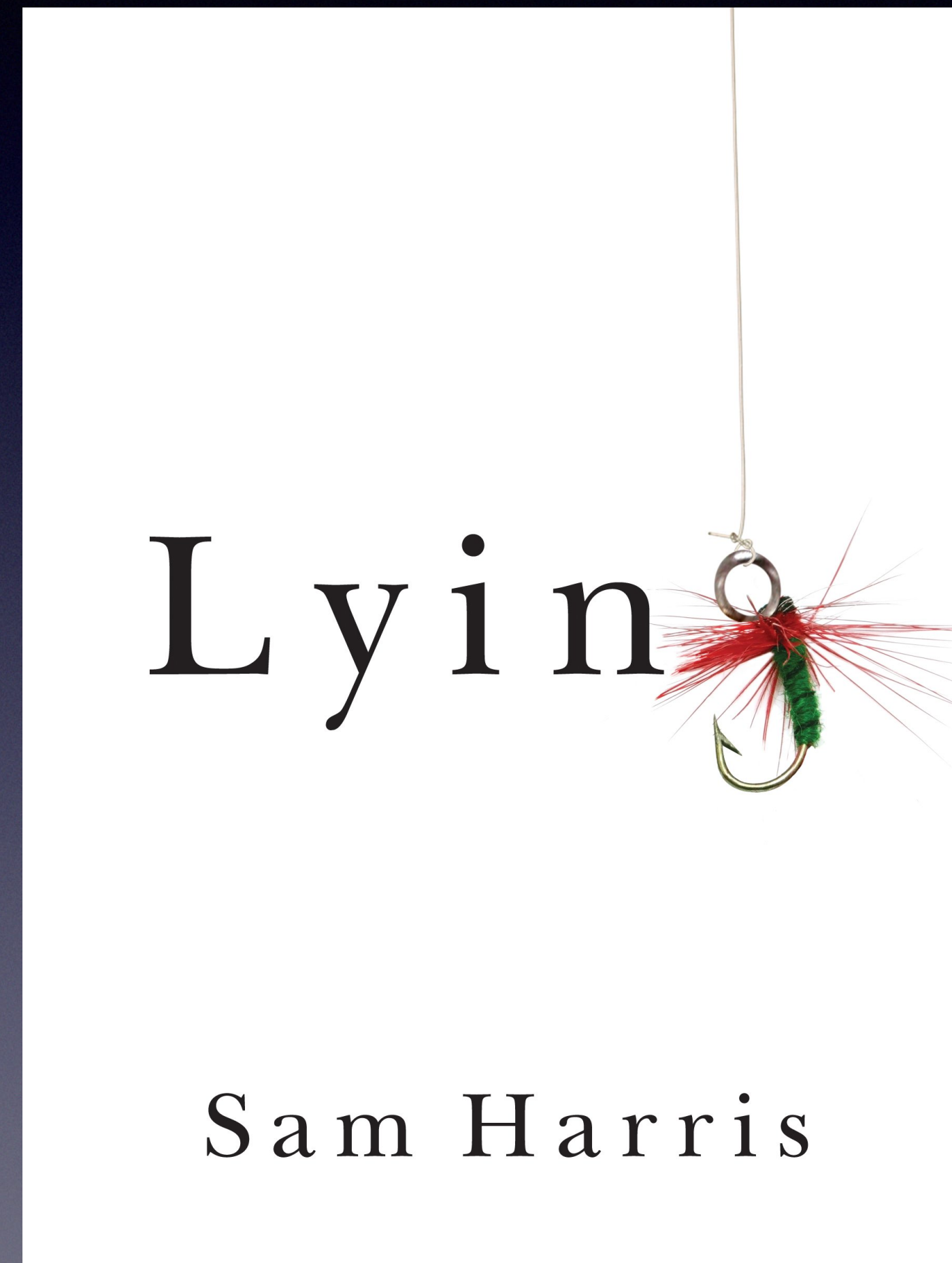
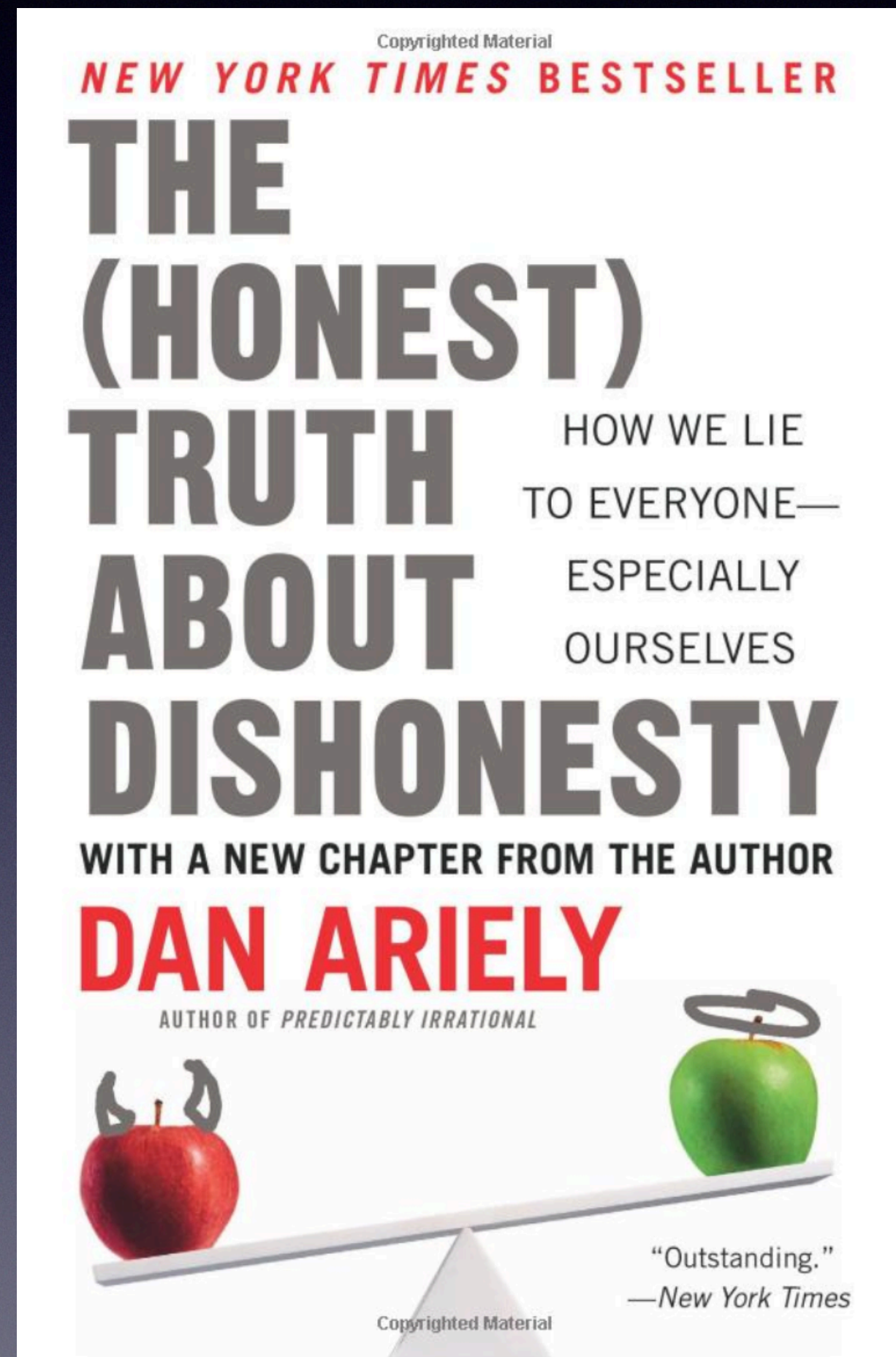
By **CRAIG FARRAND** |

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# A Culture of Lying





# Speaking Truth to a Culture That Lies

