

SERMON OUTLINE James 2:14-26

Faith, Works, Justification, and Salvation

JAMES'S BASIC ARGUMENT

Hungry and Naked Brother (14-17)

Someone and the Demons (18-19)

Abraham (20-24)

Rahab (25-26)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

James's main point is that any claim to have saving faith in Jesus that is not accompanied by a life of increasing holiness, is a lie. Good (holy) works are a necessary part of salvation in Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What is the relationship between living a holy life and salvation by grace, through faith in Jesus?
3. How have you personally experienced the relationship between faith in Jesus and obedience to Jesus?
4. Which of James's four examples (naked and hungry brother, someone and the demons, Abraham, Rahab) stands out to you the most and why? Which can you most easily identify with? Which is the most convicting?
5. Have you ever had someone tell you they cared about you, but regularly missed or ignored opportunities to demonstrate it? Did that have any impact on how much you trusted their claims to care for you?
6. What have you found to be the most accurate way to tell if someone is really a Christian or not?
7. Are there any ways that your faith is more like that of a demon than a genuine follower of Jesus?
8. What do you think of the statement, "Having orthodox beliefs is good, but not enough"?
9. What good works in your life might you point to as evidence of the authenticity of your faith?
10. Have you ever wondered how James and Paul fit with one another? Can you see how Paul might be a "problem" for James?
11. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

12. Identify at least one area of your life where your profession of faith in Jesus does not match up with your actions. Find a Christian brother or sister to help you bring those two things in line.
13. Find someone who is hungry, poorly clothed, or otherwise without something they need. Meet that need.
14. Begin a consistent Bible reading plan in order that you might grow in your knowledge of the good works God requires and the gospel that saves from sin and empowers for obedience.
15. Find a song (or some type of art) that inspires holiness. If you can't find one, make one.
16. Share the gospel with a non-Christian (the greatest act of horizontal obedience).
17. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

18. Adoration. Praise God for being a perfectly and eternally holy God. Praise God for being entirely unhyprocritical. Praise God for being the great provider. Praise God for His mercy, love, and grace. Praise God for being just and justifier.
19. Confession. Confess your hypocrisy. Confess your failure to match your profession of faith with your actions. Confess your failure to care for the needs of the needy.
20. Thanksgiving. Thank God for saving you by grace. Thank God for crediting holiness to you and working it in you in Jesus. Thank God for giving you good, only and always in Jesus.
21. Supplication. Ask God to help us live holy lives. Ask God to help you help others. Ask God to cause His Spirit to convict and empower for obedience. Ask God to make us a healthier church in every way.