


James
1:22-2:26



Thursday Morning Bible Class
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Wauwatosa, WI

1

Hearing and Doing the Word 1:19-27

- 21 – What does righteous living look like? Put away filthiness and wickedness, and receive the Word.
- 22 – It is one thing to “hear” what is said, but one really only “hears” when one responds.
- Like looking into a mirror and promptly forgetting what needs to be done.

2

Hearing and Doing the Word 1:19-27

- 25 – What is the mirror? The law of God.
- When we look into that law, we see what needs to change in our life if we are to be called the children of God.
- 26 - James is not impressed with “talking the talk,” but with “walking the walk.”
- 27 - For James, “religion” is not a set of beliefs, but rather deeds a person does because of his beliefs.

3

Favoritism forbidden – 2:1-13

- 1 – As followers of Christ, show no “partiality” on worldly criteria.
- 2 – Example: a rich man in fine clothing contrasted with a poor man in shabby clothing.
- We treat them differently, depending on how they appear.

4

Favoritism forbidden – 2:1-13

- 4 – Doing so discriminates based on outward appearance. God does not discriminate. He gives freely to all.
- “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” (Mt. 5:3). God has chosen the poor in the world to be heirs of the kingdom.

5

Favoritism forbidden – 2:1-13

- 6 – By showing such partiality, we dishonor the poor man who has equal standing before God.
- 7 – 3 rhetorical questions intended to shame them. The rich: 1) oppress them; 2) drag them into court; 3) blaspheme the name of Christ.

6

Favoritism forbidden – 2:1-13

- 8 – Partiality is simply one transgression against the “royal law”: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- 9 – The law they seek to uphold convicts them as a sinner.
- 10 – The balloon principle – if you fail at one point, you are guilty of all.

7

Favoritism forbidden – 2:1-13

- 11 – You can pride yourself in keeping one commandment, but have failed on another.
- 12 – Act as those judged under the “law of liberty” (the Gospel).
- 13 – Deal in mercy, not judgement.

8

Faith and Works – 2:9-26

- Justification – to be declared “not guilty” (Eph. 2:8-9)
- Sanctification – to live holy lives, demonstrating what it means to be a follower of Christ. (Eph. 2:10)

9

Faith and Works – 2:9-26

- 14 – A verse that has caused controversy. James is talking about a false faith – a faith that is only words.
- 15 – An example of false faith which does nothing to help a brother or sister in need.

10

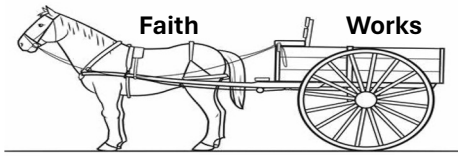
Faith and Works – 2:9-26



11

Faith and Works – 2:9-26

- 17 – If there is saving faith, it will show itself in the way the person lives.
- 18



12

Faith and Works – 2:9-26

- **19 - Faith is more than just the belief that God exists. Even Satan believes and shudders!**
- **Saving faith is the relationship we have through Christ. Such a faith will evidence itself in what we do.**

13

Faith and Works – 2:9-26

- **20-25 – Two examples of how faith and works are interlinked. In both instances, Abraham and Rahab responded to the Word of God. The faith they had in God prompted them to do what they did.**
- **26 – “When in doubt, take a pulse.” A body without spirit (breath) is dead. So faith, separated from works is a dead faith.**

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