



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of June 16, 2024

Sermon Text: James 2:14-26

[14] What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? [15] If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, [16] and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? [17] So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. [18] But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. [19] You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! [20] Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? [21] Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? [22] You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; [23] and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. [24] You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. [25] And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? [26] For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think it is so important to understand that faith without works is dead?
2. James 2:17 says, "***So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.***" Does this mean that a person is saved by both his faith and his works? How does this conform to Ephesians 2:8-9 "***For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.***"
3. If demons believe in Jesus Christ, and even proclaim Him to be the Son of God (Mark 5:7), why are they still condemned to hell (Rev 12:9)? Why is it not enough to simply believe intellectually that Jesus lived, died and rose again?
4. Why is it important for children to see their parents' faith lived out through their works? What do you think will happen to the children if parents fail to do so?
5. Why do you think James chose Abraham and Rahab to make his point? In other words, what was it about Abraham's works (v.21) and Rahab's works (v.25) that proved they truly had faith? Describe the works in your own life that prove you truly have faith.