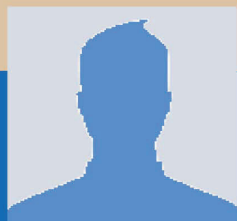
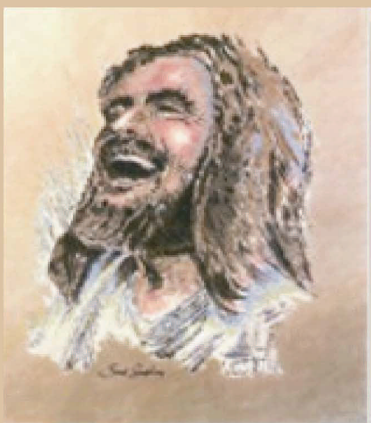


Use this daily Transformation Journal to learn how to study the Bible for yourself. Pray before you begin and ask God to bless you with insight and discernment as you ponder and respond to the questions, which are tools for your spiritual growth.

Friends

James 2:1-10



faithbook

James 2:1-10 NIV

¹My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. ²Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. ³If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? ⁸If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," ⁹you are doing right. ⁹But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Sermon Notes

Monday, September 14

Two kinds of social justice/injustice are talked about in the Book of James (the second type happens in chapter 5). The first type mentioned is that the poor people in the church were neglected in favor of the rich people. They were mistreated and discriminated against by the practice of giving special honor to rich people. James' point is quite straightforward: to discriminate between people is inconsistent with the Christian faith.

James 2:1-7

What do these verses say to you about your own conscious or unconscious treatment of others?

Think of the last time you served in outreach (mission trip, soup kitchen, house building, helping a neighbor in hard times, etc.). How did the experience affect you?

Tuesday, September 15

James is saying that favoritism is no light matter. He bluntly says that it is sin and it is lawbreaking. The Hebrews thought of law-keeping in terms of credit and debit: did your good deeds outweigh your bad? In contrast, James says that breaking even one law (as everyone does) is like breaking all laws. Although, James goes on to talk about the mercy that God gives to each of us even when we sin, he is pleading with us to share this same mercy with others.

James 2:9-13

Recall the times others have shared mercy with you.

Meditate on the daily mercy and forgiveness God brings to your life.

Where do you need to share some mercy today?

Wednesday, September 16

James proposes a test case through which the absurdity of claiming “faith” without corresponding “action” is made evident.

James 2:14-20

How have you been living out your faith this week?

Pray for God to give you guidance in how you can serve either around Valencia UMC or in one of our outreach ministries.

Thursday, September 17

James concludes the chapter by offering two illustrations from the Old Testament. In both cases (Abraham and Rahab) faith is demonstrated by means of concrete action.

James 2:21-26

Have you been a J-walker (Jesus Walker-risk taker) lately?

When have you taken risks connected with your faith in your life?

Pray about a risk God is calling you to take?

Friday, September 18

Last week we talked about 3 things we want to take from James each week: Holy Heart Repetitions (a verse that speaks to you), Living a “Faithbook” life and putting your faith into action.

Reread John Chapter 1

What verse spoke to you?

How will you put something from Chapter 1 into action?

Saturday, September 19

James, one of the leaders of the Jerusalem church, knew that living out faith in Jesus would bring changes personally and corporately. For centuries, followers of Jesus have wrestled with outward persecution as well as their inward response to the lifestyle and attitude changes needed to act out their faith. James pointed out the need to go beyond merely hearing the word, to doing what it says.

Read James Chapter 3 (James begins to talk about wisdom)

What verse spoke to you?

How will you put something from Chapter 3 into action?