

James

Chapter Two

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter Two

SUMMARY: Verses 1-26

1. James begins by rebuking any hint of showing favoritism and partiality among believers.
2. James eludes that such behavior, making distinctions about others, based on your own judgment is indeed sin.
3. Discrimination on how people look, their economic status, racial status, social status is guided by evil motives.
4. So powerful is this concept of loving your brothers and sisters in Christ that James says to show partiality is to be a lawbreaker. It's sin and you are a transgressor.
5. To judge others brothers and sisters with partiality is to judge them apart from mercy. We all need and deserve mercy. If we do not show mercy to others then we, ourselves, will forfeit mercy when we stand before God.
6. You cannot have faith apart from works. Faith is only known through works. It's impossible to prove your faith if there is no connection to works. Even the devils believe in God. However, they produce no works to show the genuineness of faith.
7. To try and have faith without corresponding action is foolishness. You are playing to role of a fool.
8. James gives Abraham as a great example of faith. Abraham's faith was demonstrated in his offering up of Isaac to show his obedience to God's command. (Genesis 15) Abraham proved his faith was genuine by the willingness to offer up his son Isaac.
9. We are only considered 'Friends of God' by faith and corresponding actions. Otherwise, faith without action is dead. It's nothing more than 'head' knowledge. Faith will also produce and action if it's genuine.
10. James gives a final analogy of faith and works - Rahab the harlot. (Joshua 2) Her genuine faith was demonstrated when she helped the spies and obey their command to put the scarlet thread in her window to spare herself and her family.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. Why do you think James is so harsh against partiality, favoritism, and making distinctions about others?
3. Why do you think showing favoritism is considered a sin and you a transgressor?
4. How could judging another with evil motives cause you to forfeit the mercy God has for you?
5. How does works prove whether or not faith is genuine?
6. Why is faith without works considered as a foolish gesture?

APPLICATION

1. How can you learn not to show partiality? It can be difficult for sure at times. It's easy for anyone to play favorites. It seems showing favoritism can be seen even during the toddler years. How to you combat such?
2. Do you consider racism a sin? How does looking down your nose at other brothers and sisters in Christ place you into the category of a transgressor and sinner?
3. How do you prove the genuineness of your faith? To your family? Your friends? Your co-workers? Your enemies?

