

Small Group/Sermon Notes for James Part 3: The Deeds of Faith

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **James Part 3: The Deeds of Faith**
 - James has a big problem with hypocrites, like big talkers who aren't doers.
- Key Verse: **James 1:22.**
 - Who wants to avoid being deceived? How do we avoid that from **James 1:22**?
 - If this verse is true, how many Christians are deceived?
- Read the section: **James 1:22-27.**
 - Even if you don't look, everyone else can still see what you look like!! Do you believe that?
 - You may think of yourself one way, but everyone else sees the truth. Face it.
 - **James 1:27** two ways we avoid being hypocrites but instead do right by God:
 - Help people who are in need. (Social Justice)
 - Live Godly lives, not sinful lives. (Moral Excellence)
 - This week the first, next week the second.
 - Does God care about social justice issues? YES!
 - **Matthew 25:31-46.** Motivated yet?
- But some Christians talk the talk but they don't walk the walk. Do you agree?
 - How do these people make you feel? Like it's all fine because they profess to believe? OR do you feel like there's something not lining up? Why?
- James deals with big talkers who aren't doers: **James 2:14-26.**
 - Key verse is **v18.**
 - People try to separate faith and actions into two things.
 - James says no. We don't choose between faith and deeds, they are intertwined.
 - The fruit of faith is action.
 - Lack of deeds isn't a deeds problem, it's a faith problem. **James 2:17, 26.**
 - Example: Are you supposed to pray? Yep. If you aren't, what do you do?
 - 1) Feel guilty and ask for forgiveness but still don't pray.
 - 2) Put prayer on your to do list and force yourself to pray.
 - 3) Look to build your faith in the power of prayer.
 - If you believed that 5 minutes of prayer would change your day from a directionless waste to a purposeful victory, then would you pray?
 - So, to fix your deeds problem (lack of prayer) you need faith!!
 - This applies to most things in the "I know is should, but..." category!
- Some of the language we have looked at is quite harsh.
 - **James 2:14 and 24, Matthew 25:41.**
 - Don't panic and get legalistic expecting to get to heaven because of how many homeless people you feed.
 - That is just dealing with a symptom but not the cause. That gets ugly.
 - Rather, build your faith. Seek the Lord. Learn God's ways. Trust in Jesus' sacrifice and teachings. The rest will work itself out as you are inspired to do the will of God in your life.
- My Yoke Is Easy...
 - Doing the deeds of faith when you have no faith is HARD WORK!
 - But, when you are full of faith then **Matthew 11:28-30** is true!
 - Key: take the other yokes off.
 - One of those yokes is trying to prove yourself to God by what you do.
 - Instead trust God. Have faith in God. Love God. Then the rest will flow.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!