

Sunday, July 20, 2025

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Living Faith Series: James...4

Text: James 2:1 - 13

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation to be IMITATORS of Christ Jesus by NOT being a respecter of people (that is not to discriminate by social status or ethnic background).

Introduction:

Two weeks ago we concluded our meditations on the first chapter of James. We considered the 'Divine Purpose of Trials,' 'Faith Grants the Crown of Life;' and 'Honest with Oneself.'

~ The main observations two weeks ago were: ~ 1. The Word Must Be Personally Received;

~ 2. The Word Needs to be Personally Practiced; ~ 3. The Word Shared by Us

~ The main theme in chapter two, in my opinion, is revealed in verse 17, "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

1. Faith Does Not Show Partiality:

~ vs. 1 – 7, "My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory." Verse 1

Notice that this is a command, not a suggestion. This means that I must discipline my own personal biases. My faith needs to go beyond social status, economic status, ethnic background, or any other exterior evaluations. Remember in Genesis we are told that the Egyptians looked down on shepherds? Genesis 46:33 - 34

~ vs. 2 – 3, James gives an illustration of partiality.

Rev. Rick Parkyn was invited to speak at a particular assembly; he dressed up like an inebriated derelict and sat in the congregation. After the offering of praise he asked for permission to address the assembly, at which time the officiant recognized Pastor Rick.

~ vs. 4, "have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts."

Prejudice, preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.

~ James 4:12, "There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?"

~ vs. 5 – 7 Compare with 1 Corinthians 1:26 – 31

~ Matthew 22:16, "And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and do not care what anyone thinks; for You are not partial to anyone."

2. Faith Keeps the ROYAL Law:

~ vs. 2:8, "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well."

~ It is the royal law because it was given by God Almighty. Leviticus 19:18, "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

~ It was ratified by our Lord King Jesus Christ.

Mark 12:30 – 31, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' (31) The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

~ Jesus illustrated this commandment in Luke 10:27 – 37, the account of the good Samaritan.

~ vs. 9, "But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors."

~ vs. 10 – 12, to fail in ONE point of the law is to fail in all.

3. Faith Demonstrates MERCY:

~ vs. 13, "For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy."

~ Matthew 5:7, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

~ Exodus 25:21, "And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you."

~ Titus 3:5 – 7, "he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (6) whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (7) so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

~ Hebrews 4:15 – 16, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Conclusion:

Hymn – At Calvary