Sermon Date: March 1, 2020

## Faith that Works

James 2:14-26

For many who grew up in the United States, Christianity and church attendance have been part of their experience. They grew up with it. Because of this many would say, "I'm a Christian. I believe in Jesus." But how do you discern if someone actually has faith in Jesus? What criteria would you use to determine whether they have the type of faith that saves them? Is it enough that a person simply claims to have faith in Jesus? This is a important topic in light of what is at stake. And it is one that James addresses in our passage today with great clarity.

Opening Question: What is something good that someone did for you this week?

Read James 2:14-26		
1.	How would you summarize the central point that James is making in this passage? What is it that he really wants his readers and us to really get?	
2.	What do you think it means that we show our faith by our works (v. 18)?	
3.	How do the examples of Abraham (vv. 21-23) and Rahab (v. 25) support James' point?	
4.	How would you put verse 24 in your own words?	
5.	What would you say to the person who reads Ephesians 2:8-9 to you and then argues that	

5. What would you say to the person who reads Ephesians 2:8-9 to you and then argues that what James is teaching is contrary to what Paul teaches?

## Steve said:

If you have faith, you believe that Jesus . . . became one of us to identify fully with humanity and then to die for our sins. If you have faith, you believe that Jesus experienced everything the world threw at Him for your benefit: He was misunderstood, rejected, and ridiculed . . . ; He was wrongfully convicted of blasphemy against His heavenly Father by people who didn't even know God; He was beaten, spat upon, flogged; He had spikes driven through His hands and feet and then lifted high on a cross and left to die. If you have faith, you say to God, "I am staking my well being in this life and my destiny in the next that Jesus did all of that for my benefit." In response to that faith, God removes your sin, places His Spirit within, and makes you His daughter or son. Because you are a new creature in Christ with new appetites, you begin following Jesus as a disciple, learning to obey everything He commanded, learning to live as He lived. You say what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5, "The love of Christ controls me. . . since He died for me, I will live for Him."

6.	When we think with this kind of clarity about what it means to have faith in Jesus, how does
	this help us understand how inconceivable it is that a person could have faith without
	works?

- 7. What are some of the works that genuine faith produces? Read Matt. 5:14-16; 28:18-20; John 14:15; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:11-14.
- 8. Where is the main area(s) of needed growth in your life of living out good works that you are most aware?

