

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 an 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 what James is teaching is contrary to what Paul teaches?

