

For Orlando

Pastor David Uth

Passage: James 2:14-26

[14](#)What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? [15](#)If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, [16](#)and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? [17](#)So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.[18](#)But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. [19](#)You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! [20](#)Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? [21](#)Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? [22](#)You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; [23](#)and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. [24](#)You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. [25](#)And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? [26](#)For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Background

Last week, Pastor Danny reminded us how one of the ways we can be For Orlando is to “be rich” (in good works) and to “be ready” to give and serve others as the opportunities arise. In other words, we don’t want to be a church that simply says we love our city and our Savior with words only. James the brother of Jesus tells us that “Faith without works is dead.” So how can we be For Orlando with both our words and our actions? Today, Pastor David will help us see how serving others is the fruit of a genuine saving faith.

Sermon Notes

Instructions

Since we believe we are BETTER TOGETHER, this discussion guide serves as a conversation guide with your small group. The “Belong” section offers an ‘ice-breaker’ or reflection question to start your time together. In the “Believe” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Become” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life and to pray for one another.

Belong

- Describe a time (or times) when someone did something to serve/help you that made a long-lasting impression. What did you learn from that experience?

Believe

- **Read James 2:14-19.** In what ways can this passage be misunderstood? Do you think James is saying that we have *do* “good works” to earn our salvation? Why or why not? What kind of “faith” is James saying cannot save? (vs. 14-15)? How does verse 15 play out today in our everyday life? How should this passage help guide our daily interactions?
- **Read James 2:20-26 and Joshua 2:1-24.** James gives two examples of “faith in action.” How did Abraham demonstrate his faith in Genesis 22? How should we understand verse 24 when Ephesians 2:8-10 tells our good works cannot save us? In the story of Rahab (Josh 2), what stands out the most to you? Did Rahab act first or wait for a promise of protection? How did she take a risk? What prompted her actions to save the spies? How does she describe the God of Israel? How should we best understand her lies/deception? What does this teach us about her faith? What does this teach us about God’s grace towards non-Israelites? How should her example challenge us? Like Rahab, in what ways is God calling you to take risk to serve others right now? Like Abraham, in what ways is God calling you to sacrificially obey him right now?
- **Read Luke 10:25-36.** What is the context for Jesus telling this parable? What do you think is the most shocking part of the parable? Why do you think the priest and Levite didn’t help the wounded man? What did the Samaritan do for the man who was hurt? What can we learn from the way the Samaritan cared for the man? How does Jesus ultimately answer the question of “who is my neighbor?” (vs. 36-37). What does this teach us about the command to “love your neighbor as yourself?” What’s your biggest takeaway?

Become

- As you consider all our For Orlando ministry partners, what is one way you, your family, or life group can commit to serve in the community in the coming months? If you are unsure, make a list of the top few opportunities that interest you. You can find a list of partners and ways to serve, here: <https://www.firstorlando.com/missions/for-orlando/serve/>
- **PRAYER POINTS:** How can we pray specifically for one another this week? Pray for one of our ministry partners specifically. Pray for clarity and courage to find ways to serve others this week. Ask God to give your group a willingness to sacrificially obey whatever He is calling you to do to serve the community.