

III. The Faith that Saved a Prostitute (25-26)

- A. Rahab's works "showed her to be right."
- i. Joshua 2 (esp. 2:9-11)
 - ii. Rahab was saved from the judgment that came upon Jericho because of her faith. Her acting to protect the spies proved her having been made right when she believed.
- B. Faith without works is dead. (26)

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Read James 2:14-26. What do you think James' key concern is for those reading this letter? Try to explain from the text.
- What do you think Jerry meant when he said, "When it comes to faith, 'everything that glitters isn't gold'"? Does this capture the message that James is communicating in 2:14-26? Explain.
- Does James 2:21-24 appear to contradict Romans 4:2-4? Are Paul and James talking about the same thing? Explain.
- Read James 2:22-23. Note the parallel between Abraham's faith being completed and the scripture that declared his faith being fulfilled. When was his faith, and this scripture, fulfilled?
- What are some scriptures which show that Paul agreed with James that saving faith is completed in works of love and obedience?
- How do Abraham and Rahab cover the gamut of those who have a faith that saves? What does this say about the kind of faith that saves?
- What does this text call you to do? Have you examined the kind of faith you have? How can you encourage one another in love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24)?

Faith that Turns Your World Right Side Up (Part 8)

Everything that Glitters

Jerry Cisar — June 26, 2016

Text: James 2:14-26

Introduction

- A. James is still addressing **self-deception**. (1:22-24, 26)

Lewis Smedes: "First we deceive ourselves, and then we convince ourselves that we are not deceiving ourselves."

- i. 2:12-13 *unmerciful judgment to the one not doing mercy*
- ii. 2:14 **unable to save** from unmerciful judgment
- iii. 2:20 **doesn't work** in saving you from judgment
- iv. 2:17, 26 as **dead** as a corpse!
- v. Matthew 7:21

- B. Is there a conflict between James and Paul?

- C. When it comes to faith, "everything that glitters isn't gold." Genuine faith, real faith, given the opportunity, will produce works consistent with that faith. Any faith that does not, is not the kind of faith that can save from the coming wrath!

I. Everything that Glitters isn't Gold (2:14-19)

- A. "Can such faith save that person who professes this faith save them from merciless judgment of v13?" ... "No!"
- B. James is primarily talking about deeds of mercy/love.
- i. vv15-16 How do we treat the poor when they are leaving?

ii. That faith that professes but shows no mercy is dead.

C. Don't Be Absurd! (2:18-19)

i. Difficulties with these verses.

a) Who has faith and who has works?

b) Possible solutions:

- “But will anyone say, 'You have faith; I have works'?” (That's absurd.)
- “But who will say, 'You have faith; I have works'?” (Not me; that's absurd.)

ii. *Works of mercy and works that match what we profess.*

iii. Orthodox professions aren't enough.

II. The Faith that Saved a Patriarch (2:20-24)

A. A faith without works, doesn't work!

i. O Person with Empty-handed Faith

a) Empty (ref. Luke 20:10-11)

b) When God came to collect fruit, **through the needy person**, the servant was sent away empty-handed!

ii. *That faith, without works, doesn't work!*

B. Was Abraham justified by works?

i. Romans 4:2-4.

ii. James and Paul were addressing different issues.

a) Paul was talking about whether or not we are saved (made right before God) by faith or by works of the law.

b) James was talking about **the kind of faith** that saves us.

➤ Romans 1:5

➤ Ephesians 2:8-10

➤ Galatians 5:4-6

C. The faith that Abraham had could save, and his works proved it.

i. “made right” or “shown to be right”

ii. When did Abraham offer Isaac on the altar?

D. Abraham's faith reached its intended purpose. (2:22)

i. The faith that saves you accomplishes its purpose, reaches its end, is completed, when you do the good works.

ii. 1 John 4:12

E. When his faith reached its fulfillment, the scripture that declared his faith reached its fulfillment! (2:22-24)

i. When did it say “*Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness*”? Before or after he offered Isaac?

ii. Abraham's faith was completed or reached maturity when he offered Isaac, for surely this wouldn't have happened unless he believed that God raises the dead.

iii. You can't see faith, but you can observe the effects of it in someone's life!