Sermon Based Study Questions

“*Dead Man Walking*”: James 2:14-27

Mar. 22, 2020

Please read James 2:14-27

1. In the first half of this chapter, James argues that favoritism is a sign that we are stuck in legalism. We are setting ourselves up as judge to measure other people’s worth. His advice (v.12-13) is to speak and act as those who live by grace (“*the Law that gives freedom*”) rather than by legalism that demands perfection.

What are some other indicators besides favoritism, that we are not fully aware of our own need of grace? Or how do you recognize subtle legalism in your own life?

1. James calls deedless faith “dead”.(v.17) He is arguing that true saving faith in Christ and His grace for us always changes the ways we act. What are some things you have noticed in your own life, that are different from your life before Christ or perhaps different from people you work or attend school with?
2. (v.18-19) James gives 2 reasons here why faith can’t be separated from actions. Put in your own words what you think is trying to say.
3. (v.20-24) These verses force us back to the story of Abraham as an example of the connection between faith and actions. Genesis 15:4-6 tells us about Abraham being declared righteous by God for his faith, but the offering of Isaac doesn’t happen until years later in Genesis 22.
* Why do you think James chose this example to prove his point?
* We often say; “we are saved by faith alone” and James is not arguing against that. So what is he trying to say in verse 24?
1. The final example James gives is of the risky actions Rahab took to protect the Jewish spies in the promised land. What is it about risky or costly actions that particular demonstrate the faith behind them?
2. What actions might God be encouraging you to take in your walk of faith right now?