

James: Faith at Work

"Radical Rahab"

James 2:24-26

Sunday, August 9th, 2026

~ This is the third sermon on the important topic of faith & works. We've defined terms, examined what looked like a contradiction between Paul & James but in truth was not. And now we've come to the end of this argument at the conclusion of chapter two.

~ It's safe to say that James would have been shocked if someone approached him and said "Hey are you saying that the only way to be saved is depend on our good works?"

> James was sure of this.... (As Paul was)

"Faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself." (v. 17)

"Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless?" (v. 20)

"For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead." (v. 26)

> In case you need to hear it once again = Real biblical saving faith is so much more than a simple profession of faith.

> Who are these two "Heroes in the Faith?" <

Abraham

A patriarch of Jewish people
A friend of God
A great leader
At the top of the social order

Rahab

A prostitute in a Gentile nation
Lived in the middle of enemies
A common citizen
At the bottom of the social order

~ Rahab's story is best seen in Joshua 2 ...

God's people are poised to enter the Promised Land; Spies are sent in to kind of spec out the joint; Word gets out that the spies are there; Jericho police are going door to door looking for these spies; Rahab covers for them.

~ THIS IS A BIG DEAL! Rahab's decision puts her in a sticky situation; she is crossing her own people. This is very _____!

> James once again circles back on the biblical truth *"For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead."*

1. The Faithful _____ of Abraham (Produced _____)

~ True faith always leads to trustful action. And true faith leads us to action regardless of the sacrifice that is required ...

> ROMANS 4:4-5

"Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness."

2. The Radical _____ of Rahab (Done in _____)

~ James brings Abraham & Rahab into his letter to try and demonstrate how faith transcends past identities and misconceptions. True faith always leads to transformative actions!

> It All Comes Down to This: **Justification**

Definition: an act of God's _____ grace where he pardons all of our sin and accepts us as righteous in His _____.

Two Biblical Realities That Come From This Teaching:

a) Faith is the _____ of our justification. (... Romans 5:1)

b) Works are the _____ of our justification

Three Practical Things to Help You Live This Out

~ Faith _____ Up

~ Faith _____ You Forward

~ Faith Takes _____