

James 2:1-13
“Does Jesus Have Access To Your Life?”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (James 2:1-13)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “Does Jesus Have Access To Your Life?”

~ INTRO ~

THIS WEEK HAS BEEN A LITTLE DIFFICULT...

- For me on an emotional-level.
- I've found myself discouraged & frustrated most of this week!

BUT...

- As I studied this portion of (James)...
 - I can see that God is carving away the rot of sin within me.
 - And I love that about Him!
- Because I know the outcome will be good...
 - Even if the process is hard.
 - (As long as I stay on the table & don't run away!)

SO... SETTLE IN...

- And get comfortable AND take some notes.

NOW...

- As we dive in deeper...
 - Let's remember (James) is teaching Christians...
 - That Real Faith, Produces Real Evidence.

THE TRUTH WE BELIEVE...

- Is demonstrated in the lives we live!
 - *Hearing* Jesus' word...
 - AND *talking* about what Jesus said...
 - Is never a substitute for *walking* with Jesus!

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THE BIG IDEA TODAY = NO PARTIALITY: READ (vv.1-4)

READ (v.1) NLT

WE CAN'T SHOW PARTIALITY TO PEOPLE...

- And claim to be *walking* with Jesus!
 - Hanging onto unfair biases (partiality)...
 - That goes against the person of Jesus... is wrong!

SO...

- James is cutting deep into the issues of our heart...
 - And there's not one person this doesn't affect!

BECAUSE... WE'RE ALL PRONE TO JUDGE PEOPLE...

- We're all prone to act on partialities & prejudices!
- Many of these come from our upbringing...
 - OR conditions we've walked thru in life.
 - And perhaps beliefs that we've formed along the way.

READ (vv.2-4) NLT

- (This is an EXAMPLE!)...
 - A hypothetical situation to reveal the subtlety...
 - Of how quickly we can crush a life...
 - (With unfair treatment of others).

THE DIVISIONS...

- Between Jew & Gentile...
 - Rich & poor...

TODAY...

- Maybe we could ADD Christian division...
 - Around political parties & partisan issues!

SITUATIONS & ACTIONS...

- That divide places of worship & wreak havoc on the church.

SO... JAMES IS TEACHING THE CHURCH...

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“Does Jesus Have Access To Your Life?”

- How to get away from the divisive things...
 - That works in opposition to the love of Christ!

IN (Acts 10: 34-35) Peter (Jew) speaks to this group of Gentiles...

*“In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.
But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness
is accepted by Him.”*

GOD DOESN'T LOOK...

- At the outward appearance...
 - He looks at the heart.
- AND the internal motives that bring external bias have to go!

JESUS SAID... (John 7:24) NLT

- *“Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly.”*

TOO OFTEN WE'RE SHORT-SIGHTED!

- And judge people by their past...
 - And NOT the future hope they have in Christ!

“God's gift and His call can never be withdrawn.” (Rom. 11:29) NLT

LISTEN...

- It's not that God doesn't want us to make judgments...
 - He does!
- But He doesn't want us to do it... with partiality... (unfair bias)
 - Based on our own opinions...
 - And not from the heart of His character!

(1 John 4:20-21) NLT

“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And He has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.”

IN A VERY REAL WAY...

- I'm NOT trying to help you be informed!

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- I’m trying to help you GET engaged.
 - (To put these truths into practice.)

HOW DO I DO THAT?

Three ways:

- 1) Be **courtesy** to ALL people (vv.1-4)
 - (Heb. 13:1-7) NLT
 - Love each other (v.1)
 - Show hospitality (v.2)
 - Honor marriage (v.4)
 - Remember your leaders (v.7)

HERE’S A PRACTICALLY STEP:

- This week call one friend and encourage them.
 - Then share it the next time you gather in your small group.
 - (Celebrate how the Lord used you).

- 2) Show **compassion** to ALL people (vv.5-9)
 - (Heb. 13:3)
 - Remember the suffering (v.3)

AT THIS CHURCH...

- We’re looking for partnership NOT membership.

THINK ABOUT IT!

- Many people have gym membership, but never use them.

SO TOO... WE DON’T WANT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP...

- We want partnership with engagement!
 - My life open to Jesus!

NOW...

- James teaches us to show **compassion** to ALL people.
 - Maybe we even need to be vulnerable enough...
 - To receive **compassion**.
 - (v.8(b)) “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

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“Does Jesus Have Access To Your Life?”

- 3) Be **consistent** with ALL of Jesus’ word (vv.10-13)
- We don’t pick and choose what we like...
 - We respond & apply all of the Bible.
 - (Even the parts that are hard)

~ IN CLOSING ~

THIS WEEK DURING OUR...

- *Digital-Discipleship* class...
- I shared about how...

GRACE – Is God’s **relational side** of His character.

- His attitude of welcoming sinners with His help.

TRUTH – Is God’s **structural side** of His character.

- His word gives us direction for a life worth living.

AND THE GOSPEL OF (John 1:17)...

- Tells us that Grace & Truth is only found in Jesus.

“Does Jesus Have Access To Your Life?”

- To apply His grace & truth today?

~ COMMUNION ~

(Isa. 53)

~ LET’S PRAY ~

- *We don’t want to do more FOR God...
- We want to do more WITH God.