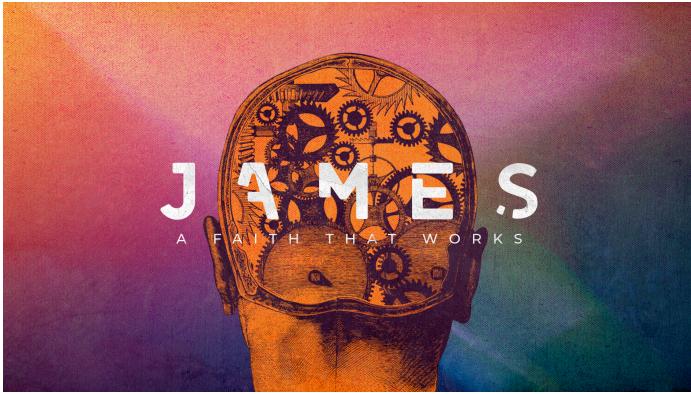


MESSAGE NOTES



Series: James
Message: How to Measure Success
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: March 21/22, 2020

success (def): *achieving the results wanted or hoped for* [Oxford Dictionary]

The question then is, “What do I want?”

Listen to what will happen to those that measure success by wealth, influence and power.

¹ Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. ² Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. ³ Your gold and silver have become worthless. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This treasure you have accumulated will stand as evidence against you on the day of judgment. ⁴ For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The wages you held back cry out against you. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. ⁵ You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you.

James 5:1-6 (NLT)

There is nothing wrong with being wealthy. There is much wrong when wealth (and my quest for it) has me.

A prayer that we would all benefit from...

⁷ O God, I beg two favors from you; let me have them before I die. ⁸ First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. ⁹ For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God’s holy name.

Proverbs 30:7-9 (NLT)

Jesus tells us God’s standard we should use to measure success...

³⁷ Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.

Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT)

Simply put, this boils down to obeying Him and serving others.

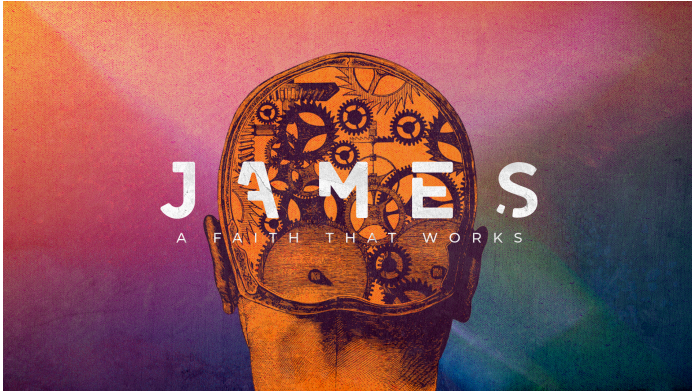
** A key reason God instructs all of us to “tithe” is to protect us from the temptation to measure success by wealth.*

The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

Some practical applications for us right now during the coronavirus scare...

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: James
Message: How to Measure Success
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: March 21/22, 2020

When you think about your life and goals, how do you measure success?

How do you measure success when you look at others around you?

Jesus was approached by a man that most people saw as very successful.

¹⁶ Someone came to Jesus with this question: "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" ¹⁷ "Why ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ "Which ones?" the man asked. And Jesus replied: "You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself." ²⁰ "I've obeyed all these commandments," the young man replied. "What else must I do?" ²¹ Jesus told him, "If you want

to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² But when the young man heard this, he went away very sad, for he had many possessions. ²³ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. ²⁴ I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" ²⁵ The disciples were astounded. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked. ²⁶ Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible." ²⁷ Then Peter said to him, "We've given up everything to follow you. What will we get?" ²⁸ "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then."

Matthew 19:16-30 (NLT)

This is the only time Jesus ever asked someone to sell all they had. He did this to show the young man that all he owned really owned him.

Come up with three or four practical applications from this story to help you be someone that follows God with a free and generous heart.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation

TLB – The Living Bible