

Lesson 7

Reading: Jas 2:19-26

1. James asks his audience “do you want to know that faith without works is dead?”. Why would he ask if they ‘want to know’?

2. In what way is faith dead without works? Does faith without works have any value?

3. James uses an example from Abrahams life to illustrate saving power of works. Paul uses an event in Abraham’s life to downplay the role of works in Salvation (Rom 4:1-8). What are some differences in these two texts (events, definitions) that allow both to be true without contradicting each other?

4. What similarities are their between the James and Romans passage?

5. What is meant by the statement that “the scripture was fulfilled” concerning Abraham (Jas 2:23)?

6. Jas 2:24 is the only time in the bible that what phrase is used. how is the phrase used? What else is implied in this verse

7. What action is Rahab considered faithful for doing? What action of Rahab in the original story is not credited as faithfulness?

8. Break down the metaphor in 2:26, describing the role of works. How might the metaphor be counter-intuitive?