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Week 2: James 2

Daily Time With Truth

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

Day 1: Matthew 22:16 (AMP)

They sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are sincere and that You teach the way of God truthfully, without concerning Yourself about [what] anyone [thinks or says of Your teachings]; for You are impartial *and* do not seek anyone’s favor [and You treat all people alike, regardless of status].

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Day 2: James 2:8-9 (AMP)

If, however, you are [really] fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself [that is, if you have an unselfish concern for others and do things for their benefit]” you are doing well. But if you show partiality [prejudice, favoritism], you are committing sin and are convicted by the Law as offenders.

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Day 3: 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NLT)

Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world’s eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

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Day 4: James 2:21-24 (MSG)

Wasn’t our ancestor Abraham “made right with God by works” when he placed his son Isaac on the sacrificial altar? Isn’t it obvious that faith and works are yoked partners, that faith expresses itself in works? That the works are “works of faith”? The full meaning of “believe” in the Scripture sentence, “Abraham believed God and was set right with God,” includes his action. It’s that weave of believing and acting that got Abraham named “God’s friend.” Is it not evident that a person is made right with God not by a barren faith but by faith fruitful in works?

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Day 5: Romans 8:26-28 (MSG)

Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God’s Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don’t know how or what to pray, it doesn’t matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That’s why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Read James 2:1-7. Have you ever been tempted to show favor to one type of person over another? If so, who and why? What have you learned since then to change your ways of looking at and evaluating people?

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2. Here is a hard question: who do we, as a church, view with trepidation in our current era? Might these people have a thirst for living water? Would you be able to leave your comfortable pew to cross the aisle to greet and welcome those who are different from you? Share any experiences you have had doing crossing barriers like this.

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3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. Why does God do this? How have you experienced this?

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4. If a person’s faith is sincere, and they are committed to loving like God, how does this transform their life?

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5. Read James 2:14-20. What good is it if someone claims to have faith, but doesn’t demonstrate good works through it? James 2:21-24 in the Message translation says, “Wasn’t our ancestor Abraham “made right with God by works” when he placed his son Isaac on the sacrificial altar? Isn’t it obvious that faith and works are yoked partners, that faith expresses itself in works? That the works are “works of faith”? The full meaning of “believe” in the Scripture sentence, “Abraham believed God and was set right with God,” includes his action. It’s that weave of believing and acting that got Abraham named “God’s friend.” Is it not evident that a person is made right with God not by a barren faith but by faith fruitful in works?” How have you witnessed faith and works as “yoked partners”? How have you seen “believe and acting” woven together?

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6.Pastor Bob said, “Faith without the expression of good works is dead. In fact, James likens faith without works to a human body without the spirit: it’s just a corpse. Just as life without the spirit is lifeless, useless, and valueless, faith without works is dead, ineffective, and worthless.” Can you think of examples?

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7. How has this lesson on James 2 challenged you? Who is God calling you to selflessly love in faith?

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