



theridgechurch

LIFEgroup Discussion Questions

Table Talk: Is it enough just to believe or does God expect more?

James 2:14 – 26

March 12, 2017

1. James says that works are important but Paul de-emphasizes works. How can both Paul and James be right?
2. James speaks of the less fortunate in 1:27 and 2:2-5 and again here in 2:15-16. Is there any significance to James's showing such concern about the less fortunate (poor, widows, orphans, etc)? If so, what does that suggest for Christians today? If not, what does that suggest for Christians today?
3. In what ways have we desired to address something but been unable to act? What keeps us from acting, in general, and what keeps you from acting, in particular:
 - Busyness
 - Lack of concern
 - Not knowing how or what to do
 - Procrastination
 - Disbelieving the importance of helping
 - Concern about your own needs (safety, money, time, energy)
4. James identifies Rahab as a prostitute, a designation which would have evoked surprise to some given the low view of prostitutes. He, however, goes on to communicate that her actions were awesome and she was justified because of them. What, if anything, does this suggest about who God can and wishes to use? Are there any ethical barriers or lifestyles that deters God from using someone? Why or why not?
5. James uses pretty strong language in 2:20: "foolish person" in the NIV or "senseless person" in the NRSV. The exact equivalent is "you idiot." What is at stake or what is in danger of being missed in order for James to react so strongly to "faith without works?"
6. What are some examples of works today?
7. What 3 works can you try to do better at during this Lenten season? Do you think you can continue to do better at these works once Lent concludes for 2017?

Prayer