

## JAMES 2 – FAITH AND WORKS – WEEK 2

*(I have split the study into 3 parts – if you are short of time or want a longer time to discuss, then you could choose one or two parts).*

### WARM-UP

Either:

1. How do you react when people say their faith is a private thing? What is behind that comment and how would you respond?

Or:

2. Think about some impressive Christians that you have heard about or read about. What marked them out as different? (*Actions v words*)

### OVERVIEW

In the passages from James for today we will see that James is always linking faith with actions. There are 3 parts to the study.

1. Listening and doing (1:19-26)
2. No prejudice or favouritism (2:1-13)
3. Faith and works (2:14-26)

### READ CH 1:19-26

Q1: Why is listening without doing a problem for us?

*(Head knowledge can make us numb to the words, fooling ourselves on the state of our faith, miss out on blessing)*

Q2: Why does James give this definition about 'pure religion'. Is that the only definition? How does that fit with Micah 6:8?

### READ 2:1-13

Q3: Have you seen examples where certain people are treated better than others because they are rich or well-known? Why do you think that James condemns that so clearly?

Q4: Are there ways we can inadvertently show prejudice or favouritism? Think about how we do church & then how you react to people you meet. Are we free from the preoccupation with what people have rather than what they are?

### READ 2:14-26

In these verses, James warns against a faith that is inactive.

Q5: Why does James say that faith without words is dead? See also Matt 25:31-46 and 1 John 3:18. Does this contradict Paul's statement that we are saved by faith alone (Eph 2:8-9)?

Q6: How do the 2 examples (Abraham and Rahab) illustrate the principle in verse 22?

Q7: How do you feel after reading these passages, especially verse 2:13?

Q8: What things could you/we do to show the world that our faith is genuine? How can we show more of the 'pure religion' that James talks about in 1:29?