

Good News and Good Deeds

Practicing the Way series: Honoring the Image of God in All People

Sunday message from April 30th, 2023

~ Notes & Reflections ~

- **James is passionate about compassionate justice flowing from our faith.**
 - ❖ Read [James 2.14-26](#). What do you notice in this passage? What stands out to you?
 - ❖ Rather than personal holiness, this passage is primarily about honoring the image of God in others.
- **We are not saved by what we do, but what we do is crucial to our faith.**
 - ❖ Read [Ephesians 2.8-10](#). What parallels or differences do you see regarding faith and works between this passage and the one above in James?
 - ❖ Read [James 2.14-26](#) again. What words does James use to describe a “faith” that does not have good works to accompany it?
- **James emphasizes that our faith should move us to action toward others, specifically toward those in need.**
 - ❖ Read Matthew 25.34-46. What parallels and differences do you notice between Jesus words here and the passage and James?
 - ❖ How do these passages of Scripture impact you? What might God be speaking to you through them?
- **We are not just good news people, we are also good deeds people. We are not only meant to share good news, but we also need to be good news.**
 - ❖ All through Scripture, the people of God are implored to treat others as wholistic people (“nephesh”)—that means honoring the image of God in all people in their spiritual, emotional and physical needs.
 - ❖ Read [Matthew 22.36-40](#). What does this passage imply about the importance of loving actions?
 - ❖ What might this mean for you, personally, where you’re at right now?
- **Sin is a failure to love.**
 - ❖ “If the greatest commandment given by Jesus is rooted in love, the greatest sin—and perhaps all sin—must in some way be the rejection of this command. This is what makes sin so pernicious. It orients us inward. It curves in on ourselves, and in so doing uproots love, goodness, beauty and kindness... To classify sin as a failure to love is not to sentimentalize or soften it. It’s to frame the very essence of our lives with God and one another in the way Jesus did.” ~ Rich Villodas, [Good, Beautiful and Kind](#)
 - ❖ Read [1 John 3.16-18](#). What do you notice in the passage regarding the relationship of sin and love?
 - ❖ How does this definition of sin affect your previous understanding? What might that mean for daily life?
- **The way of Jesus is different. We have to be different.**
- **“Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone.” ~ Andy Stanley.**
 - ❖ Loving others well is big and hard. Start small... with the person right in front of you.
 - ❖ Who might be that person for you? What might be that small step?
 - ❖ How might the love of Jesus for you impact your way forward?
- What statements or aspects of this message bring comfort? Which bring conviction? Take some time to talk to God about what bubbles up as you read/hear and reflect on this message.
- What might God be inviting you into as a response to this message/reflection on honoring the image of God in all people? What might God be speaking to you and/or inviting you into as a result of this message?