

TODAY'S VERSES:

James 5:19-20

2 Timothy 3:12-13

2 Peter 2:15

1 Corinthians 5, 8

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

Proverbs 10:12

Galatians 6:1

1 John 5:16

2 Thessalonians 3:15

Acts 20

Matthew 18:15-17

THIS WEEK, I CAN APPLY THIS LESSON
TO MY LIFE IN THESE WAYS:



MY NOTES:

[illegible]

JAMES

A FAITH THAT WORKS

PART NINETEEN:

J A M E S 5 : 1 9 - 2 0

SPEAKING THE GOSPEL

JAMES

A FAITH THAT WORKS

PART NINETEEN: JAMES 5:19-20 SPEAKING THE GOSPEL

James, throughout his letter, deals with confusion, discipline, the need for confession of sins, and he will end with a push to restore (bring back) those who have wandered. James never shies away from calling sin "sin," or "wandering" sin, but he reminds us that God has a greater purpose in one another's lives, a purpose beyond judgment. The New Testament tells us to weep over those who are wandering, pray for them, speak truth into their lives, and when necessary bring discipline.

Speaking truth to one another is never meant to be for the purposes of control or power, we speak truth because we love them in the name of Christ. James says that we will not survive as a body of people without Christians confessing their sins to each other. We will not be witnesses for Christ and loving each other if we do not step into each other's lives in ways that are hard. We will not be those who bring one another back without real relationships with one another. A church must do this or we will never be the church God calls us to be.

Kent Hughes wrote, *"To save another from spiritual death is indeed the greatest thing one human can do for another!"* He is not saying we save people, it is Jesus who does that, but the point of the book of James pushes us to be Christ's ambassadors. James' call is for the church to consciously practice a ministry of reclamation. Hughes says this has 5 steps:

1) Love. The church must engage in love because love cares and maintains a relationship through which the grace of God moves.

2) Integrity. If we are to be used to help restore someone, we must possess what we wish them to have.

3) Prayer. We must pray for those who wander even while confronting them.

4) Confrontation. This comes out of love. Love doesn't shy away when someone needs truth.

5) Discipline. This is the last resort but there are times we must do this for the sake of the wanderer and the life of the church.

How do we live as a Gospel centered people? We must know the Gospel. Jesus saves, not us, so we speak His message and call people to Him.

Read James 5:19-20.

- How do you feel about the word "confrontation?"
- How do you feel when you hear the word "restoration?"
- What does "repentance" mean?
- How have you experienced wandering that is like drifting?
- When was the last time you have examined yourself and your faith?
- What things did you find?
- How can we experience being wrong without being crushed by that fact?
- How can a Gospel centered community practice the ministry of reclamation?
- What is the Biblical response to noticing we have wandered from Jesus? List them out and discuss them as a group.
- What kinds of issues do you anticipate as you engage with the culture around us?
- How can we or would we approach someone who has wandered and is in need of community (believer or non)?
- How would love, integrity, prayer, confrontation and discipline play a part?
- How can we encourage missional mindfulness and growing in sanctification at the same time?
- Practice sharing what the Gospel is in your group. How can that truth inspire and encourage you this week?