

The Disciple

AUGUST 16, 2020

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Sermon Series on James:

Becoming a Child of the King (Parts 3 & 4)

Continuing with the 9-part series on the Book of James, Titled "Becoming a Child of the King."

At the end of the first chapter, James 1:19 - 27, James' writing focuses on how to transition from a passive useless faith into a functioning faith. What is the difference between passive and functioning?

Think of an air conditioner that blows only hot air. It is officially working, but to fulfill the purpose of cooling a house, it must blow cool, refreshing air. Functioning faith is seen in the way we use our time and how we act. Though the book of James, God is calling us to grow in our faith, this allows God to use us for his glory.

James starts with three simple directives:

- ⇒ **Talk less**
- ⇒ **Listen more**
- ⇒ **Be slow to anger**

These three directives can be used to shape your experience as a Christian, tap into your deeper desires to please God, and find direction in the freedom of God's word.

The directives help turn the desire to be a better Christian into the action called to us by the Bible. It allows us to be willing to give yourself to others without hesitation. Helping those in need is the word of God turned into action, which is the pinnacle of being a functioning Christian, according to James.



*He has also set
eternity in the
human heart;
yet no one can
fathom what
God has done
from beginning
to end.*

Ecclesiastes 3:11
(NIV)

As James starts Chapter 2, he asks not to forget about our own vulnerability. To be a child of the King means to hold onto the same vulnerability that Jesus experienced. Remembering that we are not promised health and wealth. Jesus never sought out wealth but forsook his rights as God as he surrendered to the cross. On the cross, Jesus gave the thing that we are needed the most, forgiveness. The forgiveness that Jesus gave with his last breaths to the thief on the cross is the same forgiveness promised to us. The cross is an example of vulnerability and forgiveness in a world that is cruel, unkind, and unfair.

Within vulnerability is grace. In Jesus' times, it was thought that to be poor and infirmed was to be cursed with the judgment of God. But Jesus rejected this idea and sought out the poor, the weak, the ill, and the marginalized. He said, it is not the well who need a doctor but the sick (Matt. 9:12) –He offers this same grace to us and expects us to offer it to others. James tells us that we will be judged by the measure we use to judge others. And he reminds us that grace given is grace received.

Further, we are asked to show mercy. Mercy is even more challenging to offer than grace because mercy requires faith that functions through having compassion for others. Whereas grace gathers in the lowest levels, mercy is how someone responds when we receive that grace. Mercy triumphs over judgment because mercy is the manifestation of functional faith, and we are justified and saved by faith.

God is calling all Christians to grow in their faith so that they may be mature. To grow as a child of the King is to have faith that is functional. Christians with functioning faith have a natural desire to please God, intently study the Bible (the law of freedom), and learn to show mercy to others who are less fortunate than us. By the power of the Holy Spirit, these simple directives transform us into children of God who have functioning faith and are maturing into people who act like Jesus.

For more on in this series on James, we invite you to join us on Sunday mornings, either in person or by visiting our online worship resources.

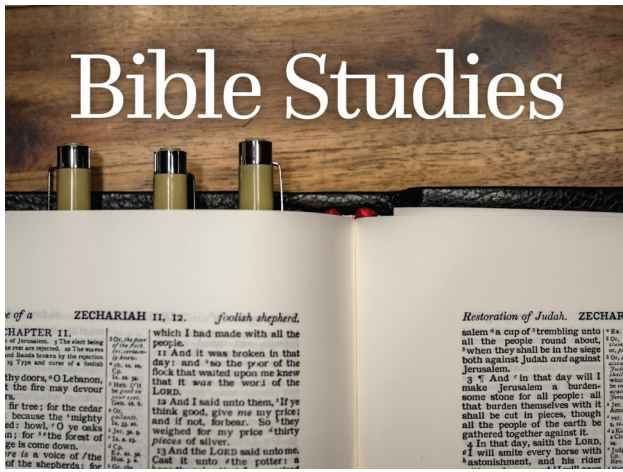


If you would like to help provide meals for those in need, please **contact Penny Best at 540-748-9048**. She will be happy to coordinate a time to meet you at the church or to arrange a way to get your meal to the church.

As needs arise, we use these meals to help support people who have a need for the blessing of a pre-cooked meal.

What good is it...
if you say you
have faith but
do not have works?
Can faith save you?

James 2:14, NRSV



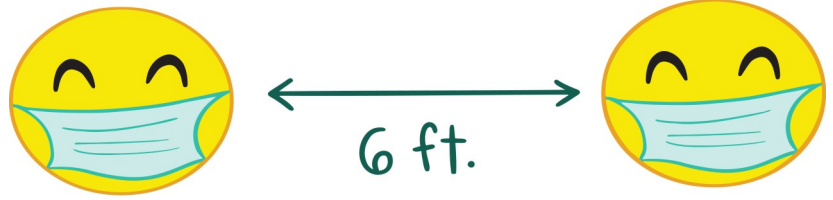
Bible Study is about to take a new look. Starting on August 19th, we will be offering more flexibility for our **Wednesday (10:30am)** and **Thursday (7:00pm)** Bible studies.

If you feel comfortable, you can meet in person at the church, while those who wish to continue at home will be able to join in also. Social distancing will be in affect and you must wear a mask inside the fellowship hall.



In person Sunday Services will resume on August 23rd.

When you are ready to attend, please call or text **540-748-0274** to let us know to expect you.



THANK YOU

FOR PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING!

Puzzle!

Using the code, fill in the blanks to discover what we should do each day.

CODE

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 1 | B | F | 2 | G | K | 3 | L | O | 4 | R | U | 5 | V |
| D | E | H | I | M | N | S | T | W | X | Y | Z | | | |

T

4 1 3 3 4 4 2 4 1

1 3 1 3 2 4 4 1 3

2 4 4 2 4 1

“ 1 1 4 4 2 3 3 1 3 1

3 3 4 5 4 2 1 4

2 1 3 2 4 1”

Answer: Talk to God and Listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

Words of Encouragement

From Butch Duke

I recently saw a cartoon with two Amish men talking to one another. The caption over the first read; "How come we're not getting the Corona Virus?"

The caption over the other read; "Because we don't have televisions."

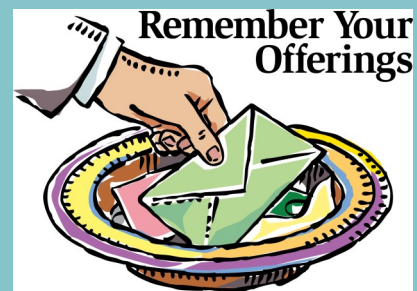
Of course abandoning your TV won't make you immune to the virus, but it may help your outlook on life.

I'm not suggesting burying your head in the sand, but focusing on all the good God has provided us, our families, our friends, our congregation!

We are truly blessed and our faith in Jesus will go a long way in seeing us through all this.

Matter of fact, faith in Jesus would come close to solving all the problems we are facing!

Pass the word!



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and click on
"Tithe Here"
to donate using a credit
card.

You can also donate by
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Louisa, VA 23093

We thank you for
your support.



**Do you
want hear
sermons
and Sunday
Services in
the
entirety?**

Remember, the
LCC website has
all the sermon
resources
available for
you to re-visit
at your convenience.

Look for the
"Worship Resources"
right on the home page of
LouisaChristianChurch.org.

You can sort these by month or
just click into the resources
available.

We hope you enjoy this feature
and return often.

...so in Christ we,
though many,

FORM ONE BODY,
and each member
belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5, NIV