Walk in Chaos

James 2:14-20

Sermon Outline

A. How Not to Walk (vs. 14-17):

1. **What use; benefit** – James is challenging believers to evaluate if there is any advantage or profit to having faith with no works.

2. **Brethren** – These believers were a community of believers that James still relates to and cares for.

3. **Brethren** – This is a faith to work out after salvation (Philippians 2:12-13).

4. **If someone** – If refers to a hypothetical situation even though some believe that James is responding to a situation that was taking place among those who he is writing to.

5. **Says; tell, speak** – These circumstances depend on if someone continuously keeps repeating that faith can take place without works.

6. **Faith** – Faith is the demonstration of a deep commitment and intense trust in God’s Word. This is because the believer is confident that God has the ability and authority of to resolve whatever the believer is experiencing. As a result, the believer is steadfastly committed to whatever God says.

7. **But he has no works** - This believer continuously does not demonstrate any actions that relates to their claim that they have faith. These actions would have been a result of accumulative efforts stimulated by their conviction in God’s Word.

8. **Can** – The believer’s perspective of faith without works lacks the power to establish favorable circumstances that would deliver them from what they are experiencing.

9. **Faith** – This is a perspective that a believer can have a deep conviction in God’s Word leading to intense trust in God without demonstrating any form of obedience.

10. **Save him** – Can the lack of obedience cause a believer to be delivered from sinful habits that produces spiritual maturity?

11. **If a brother or sister** – This is a hypothetical situation as a believer relates to someone else in the church.

12. **Without clothing and needs food** - While attending church the believer who claims to have faith recognizes that another believer does not have what is necessary to sustain themselves each day.

13. **If you say** – If the believer seeing the need spoke only once to the other believer in need, and has no intent of ever addressing the issue again (2:1-7), this is not faith at all.

14. **Go in peace** - When the believer in need is commanded out of the presence of the other
believer, who provided them no help, violating the Word of God, this believer does not demonstrate faith at all.

15. Be warm - The believer that provided no help commands the person in need to be warm, while recognizing that person in need does not have proper clothing, demonstrates, since they are violating the Word of God that they have no faith at all.

16. Filled – To command someone, another believer to eat and be satisfied knowing the person has no means to do so is to violate the Word of God and demonstrate no faith at all.

17. Do not give them what is necessary – The believer who claims to have faith decides once and for all to not permanently change the circumstances of the believer. This is to choose not to service even the basic need of the person.

18. What use is it? – When faith does not produce even the basic requirements of the Word of God it is not profitable at all (Boaz, Ruth and Naomi).

19. What use is it? – When faith does not produce even the basic requirements of the Word of God it is not increasing the believer's spiritual growth.

20. Faith – The demonstration of a deep commitment and intense trust in God's Word is not manifested under these basic circumstances. This is because the believer's confidence in God's ability and authority to resolve these circumstances is not demonstrated by their obedience to His Word. As a result, the believer only demonstrates an intellectual understanding of God's Word.

21. If it has no works - This believer continuously does not demonstrate any actions that relates to their claim that they have faith. These actions would have been a result of accumulative efforts stimulated by their conviction and surrender in God's Word.

22. Is dead – The believer who functions in this manner as it relates to the Word of God is constantly in a state of disobeying God so they are in a state of sin.

23. Is dead – Verb, present, active, indicative, 3rd person, singular | finite verb/ adjective, nominative, singular, feminine | predicate adjective – A believer who is in a state of sin because they willfully chose to not obey God is spiritually dead.

24. Being; Against, accordance – The person who demonstrate no obedience to God's Word is still saved because the know and accept that the Word of God is true as a result they only have a commitment to God's Word but they do not surrender to its will, so their faith is by itself.

B. How Must We Walk (vs. 18-20):

1. Call – Some may express their inwards thoughts and feelings verbally.

2. I have faith – Someone may continuously hold the position that they have of a deep commitment and intense trust in God's Word. This is because the believer is confident that God has the ability and authority of to resolve whatever the believer is experiencing.

3. I have works - Someone may continuously hold the position that they have continuously
demonstrated that their actions unrelated to their commitment to Christ is good and profitable for their walk with God and how that affects the development of the church.

4. **Show me** – James commands the believers he is addressing to exhibit in a significant manner their faith.

5. **Your faith without the works** — James wants them to exhibit in a significant manner their steadfast conviction and surrender to God’s Word without demonstrating their commitment to obey it. It’s as if James is saying how can you be deeply committed to God’s Word and it somehow never affects the decisions a person makes or their character development?

6. **I will show my faith** - James states that the true representation of faith because of its nature will cause it to always manifest itself with works. This is because the nature of faith is that it is a full surrender to God’s Word due to a complete trust in Him. Since God’s Word is instructing us to action, since it is His will for us, so it is impossible for it to not require obedience. Because of our deep commitment to His Word when it requires obedience, faith always leads to action as exemplified by those James list.

7. **You believe** – This is a faith that is a result of an unreserved wholehearted commitment to God. Believing God to be one God, especially since the Jews were consistently surrounded by nations who believed in manner Gods, is something that most Jews especially believing Christians would have a full knowledge of with complete confidence.

8. **God is one** - The focal point of their conviction is that God is always one.

9. **Do well** – The conviction that God is one is a repeated action that is excellent because it meant the intended purpose.

10. **Demons also believe** - Evil spirits that hold to the same conviction as believers. I believe that the use of the word believe here seems to imply that they can provide a factually account that God is one. There would be no demons if all of this were not true.

11. **Shudder; tremble** – The fact that demons continuously, because of this fact, show physical signs of terror, extreme fear and horror. This vividly takes place.

12. **Are you willing** — James seems to imply that the person James is talking to stubbornly held they believe that faith without works can take place; this is in view with 2:1-7.

13. **Recognize; Knows** – James pose the question as to whether or not they are willing to come to the full realization based on a better understanding, through the influence of the Holy Spirit that faith is always followed by works?

14. **Foolish; vain** – James calls this person who seems to be unwilling to accept what he is saying to be a person who has an absence of good and a presence of evil.

15. **Your faith without the works** – To have a deep conviction and full surrender to God’s Word and not have a willingness to obey it, makes faith of no benefit to the spiritual development of a believer (Ephesians 3:16-21).

16. **Useless; benefit** – To have a faith alone does not stimulate the work of the Holy Spirit in a
believer’s life (John 15:1-17; Romans 12:1-2). The believer bears no fruit.

17. **Useless; benefit** – Without a faith that produces works a believer cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6). Their faith is therefore useless.

18. **Faith with works** – Faith that works creates tremendous impact in and through believer’s lives.

19. **Faith with works** – Faith that works produces strength and wisdom in chaos (Rahab).