

Thy Kingdom Come: The Kingdom Test

Reflect

1. Name one “good thing” you did today.
2. When you do something good for someone else, how does that make you feel? Why does it make you feel that way?
3. What was one of the more memorable “good things” that someone did for you?

Read Your Bible

- James 2:14-17
- Matthew 7:21-23

Apply God’s Word to Your Life

1. Why is faith if not accompanied by action dead?
2. Finish this statement: “Actions speak louder than _____.”
3. Verse 14 of our James text says: “Can such faith save them?” Describe a faith that saves.
4. Our Gospel text from Matthew is a scary text for most. People are calling Jesus “Lord” and yet missing out on the Kingdom of God. What were they missing?
5. If you were to write Matthew 7:21-23 in your own words what would you say?
6. The key phrase in the Matthew text is Jesus saying, “I never knew you.” How do we allow ourselves to be known by Jesus? Check out Revelation 3:20.
7. What difference has faith made in your life?

Conclusion

Martin Luther said, "God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbor does." How does that affect the faith and works conversation? One of the more haunting scriptures regarding faith is found in Mark, Chapter 2. The scene is set where a few friends bring in a man whose is paralyzed. They carry him in on a mat. Scripture then says that Jesus sees their faith! How often do we think of faith as something that can be seen? That is the conclusion of these texts. If one can't see our faith (our actions that are driven by our faith) well I guess it is no faith at all. We are not saved by good works, but they are the fruit of our salvation. Good works are the result of our relationship with Christ.

Pray

Gracious God, You are the Gifter of our faith. We humbly ask that You continue to gift us with the gifts of faith and trust, so that the world may see You in us. May this gift of faith transform us, leads us to action and continue to form us into Your image. May the world around us see our faith and may it bring You glory! In Jesus' name. Amen!