



## Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, June 5, 2011

Faith Works: What is genuine faith?

James 1:27

What stories of the Bible come to mind of Jesus interacting with the poor, the broken, the outcast? If you are having trouble finding a story, read through the book of Luke. It was written to show Jesus' deep heart for the outcast.

When you meet people that are homeless, poor, and outcast, what is your immediate response? This is a time to be honest with your heart: is it sadness, compassion, or maybe it's fear, bothersome, or even anger. Maybe you wonder how they got into this situation, maybe it's anger that they don't get themselves out of this position. Be honest with the group.

### **Read James 1:27**

What are ways that you have seen "the church" do to care for the poor, the widow, and the orphan?

What are ways that you have seen "the world" do to care for the poor, the widow, and the orphan?

Gordon McDonald made this comment: ***"The world can do almost anything as well as or better than the church. You need not to be a Christian to build houses, feed the hungry, or heal the sick. There is only one thing the world cannot do. It cannot offer grace."***

Respond as a group to this comment.

In light of this comment, what do you think Jesus meant in James 1:27 more than just providing for the physical needs of the orphans and widows?

This morning, John mentioned 4 things that describe real faith. Read the passages aloud to one another and respond as a group to each of these from what you heard this morning:

\*Real Faith=Counting all things loss (Philippians 3:8, Luke 10:27)

\*What are the hardest things for you to lose? What do you cling to and have most difficulty releasing to God? What do you imagine life would look like if it were gone?

\*Real Ministry= Helping those who cannot help themselves. (James 1:27)

\*Who are people you know that cannot help themselves? What are ways that people have a hard time helping themselves? Pray as a group over these people.

\*Real Living= Love not the world or the things of this world. (1 John 2:15)

\*What are things in this world that you can't imagine living without?  
What are things in this world you have chosen to live without?

\*Real results= Fruit that is according to what God has placed in our hands(Mat 25:19)

\*Where are places you have seen fruit from choices you have made to love those that God calls us to love?

What are practical steps you can take even this week to move into the life of someone God has put on your heart during this study? How would you ask the group to hold you accountable for taking these steps?