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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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Intentional Acts of Grace

James 2:14-26

Series: Joining Jesus on His Mission

Joining Jesus on His Mission

- ❖ Two Questions
 - What is Jesus up to?
 - How is he inviting me to join him?
- ❖ Five Practices
 - Seeking the kingdom.
 - Hearing from Jesus.
 - Talking with people.
 - *Doing good.*
 - Ministering through prayer.

Central Passages

James 2:18 (ESV) — 18 *But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

Central Thought: Joining Jesus on his mission involves demonstrating our faith through intentional acts of grace, done in the name of Jesus.

- ❖ Action-less faith won't save you, or benefit your neighbor in need.

James 2:14–17 (ESV) — 14 *What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? **Can that faith save him?** 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 **So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.***

James 2:19 (ESV) — 19 *You believe that God is one; you do well. **Even the demons believe—and shudder!***

- ❖ Our good works, done in the name of Jesus, demonstrate the reality of our faith and point people to God.

James 2:18 (ESV) — 18 *But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.***

Matthew 5:16 (ESV) — 16 *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

- ❖ Good works begin with the family of God.

James 2:15–16 (ESV) — 15 *If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?*

A Final Note

- ❖ Christian good works are done in the hope of Christ's return and God's promise to make all things new.

- James 2:20-25 – The example of Abraham and Rahab
- Revelation 21:1-5 - “Behold, I am making all things new.”