

Favorite Scripture – David Preslar (2021)

Scripture – Book(s) and Chapter(s):

James 2: 14-18 & 26



Scripture passage(s):

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Why this is my favorite scripture:

As a follower of Jesus and in an effort to live my life more like His, I have come to understand that it is not enough just to proclaim my faith without taking action. Jesus was all about love and love in action. He demonstrated that love by becoming a servant to all. He always placed others needs before his own. He took the lowest servant position by washing His disciple's feet, and then suffering the humility of dying on the cross, giving His life in order to wash our sins away (a servant to all). He shared and demonstrated what we need to do as believers and how we should live through His words and actions. He tells us in Matthew 22: 37 that the two greatest commandments are to love God, and love others. Then in Matthew 25:35-45 He goes on to instruct us on how we should do that by serving those in need. I read these passages and I realize that I fail at meeting Jesus' expectations every day, but I continue to work diligently and strive to be more like Him! Using His words and actions as the model for going to life.

Ask yourself, do my actions demonstrate my faith? The good news is if it doesn't, Jesus is waiting on you to take that first step and reminding you that He will be there to comfort and encourage you throughout your journey. But if you're asking yourself what does loving like Jesus look like? "Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, 'How can I help?'" (Romans 15:2). Look for how Jesus may be in your life disguised as a hurting person. He may be at the water cooler on Monday morning. He may be at the soccer game. He may be the person behind you in the grocery store line. He may be the most unlovable person you know who is carrying a deep hurt. If you want to serve Jesus, then start by showing up for the hurting people around you.

Romans 12:13 says, "When God's children are in need, you be the one to help them out."

There are many people in our church, your neighborhood, and even family who are working to put food on the table. Widows who are lonely in their empty houses, students who are overwhelmed by life in a pandemic. Ask yourself, how can I love them like Jesus today?

What can I do to ease their hurt and burdens?

What it provides to me:

Hope, strength, encouragement, faith, guidance, focus, direction, humility

What I hope it brings to others:

Dear heavenly father, let my words and actions be a reflection of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ in all I do and say. Let Your spirit remind me that my life is about serving and not being served. Let your spirit shine through me as a light for others to follow.

Amen

