

James Series Going Deeper

5- Day Devotional

Week 7, Day 2: True Religion Reflects the Heart of God

Primary Scripture

James 1:27

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

Primary Focus Statement

True faith moves toward broken people and away from worldly living because real faith reflects the heart of God.

Devotional Teaching

James now shifts from speech to action. He tells us what true religion actually looks like in everyday life.

He says pure and undefiled religion involves caring for widows and orphans in their affliction. In the ancient world, widows and orphans represented the vulnerable, overlooked, powerless, and forgotten people of society.

These were people who often had nothing to offer in return.

And James says true faith moves toward people like that.

Why? Because that is exactly what God did for us.

Spiritually speaking, we were helpless. Broken. Guilty. Unable to save ourselves. Yet God moved toward us in mercy through Jesus Christ.

The gospel transforms the way we see people. The world values status, success, beauty, influence, and usefulness. But the kingdom values people because they are made in the image of God.

James also says true religion keeps itself unstained from the world. This means believers are not supposed to adopt the sinful priorities and value systems of culture.

The world says live for self.

Jesus says die to self.

The world says pursue status.

Jesus says pursue servanthood.

The world says exalt yourself.

Jesus says humble yourself.

Real faith changes both our compassion and our holiness.

Reflection Questions

1. **Do I intentionally move toward hurting and vulnerable people?**
2. **In what ways has the world influenced my thinking and priorities?**
3. **Does my life increasingly reflect the heart and character of Jesus?**

Action Step

Reach out intentionally to someone who may feel overlooked, lonely, or struggling and encourage them today.