

Kids' Chronicle

James says to prove faith by actions

BY JOE SARNICOLA

To my Christian friends and brothers around the world:

I know it is easy to judge people by the way they look, but we must be careful about doing that. We should not treat people differently because of how they are dressed. Suppose a wealthy man visited your assembly and he was wearing robes of fine linen and expensive jewelry. And at the same time another man visited who was dirty and had torn and wrinkled clothing. What would you do?

If you escorted the rich man to sit in one of the seats in the front by the altar, but told the poor man to stand behind the back row of seats, you would be showing that you think people are different because of how they look on the outside. This can lead to evil, and you could be easily deceived.

Think of how God sees the same situation. He has called the poor to receive the gift of faith and the promise of his kingdom. But look around. Who in your community holds the power to throw you into court or keep the best things for themselves? The people with the most money. Some of these same people do not even honor the name of Jesus.

Remember the words of our Lord, "Love your neighbor as yourself." If we do anything less we are disobeying God. So let us not judge each other by how we look. Let us act as men and women who have been set free by God's law. Let us also show mercy to each other.

Now I would like to talk about faith. How can you say you have faith if the way you live does not prove it? If your neighbor came to you hungry and you said you would pray for him, that would not feed that man's family. If he came to you



Illustration by Zoe Maves

and you shared what you had with him, that would be faith in action.

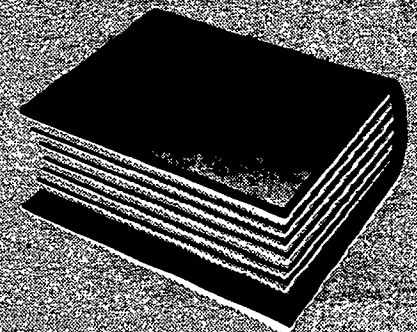
Faith that is not put into practice is like an unplanted seed. It will never grow, nor will it bear fruit.

Our ancestor Abraham knew that his faith was complete when he obeyed God, even when he did not understand why God was testing his faith. God called Abraham a righteous man and called him his friend because he proved his faith by his actions, and not just his words.

Q&A

Read more about it: James 2

1. What did James say about how people dressed?
2. Why did God honor Abraham?



Bible Accent

There are three men named James mentioned in the New Testament who might have written the Letter of James. Two of them were chosen by Jesus to be among his first Twelve Apostles (see Matthew 10).

Biblical scholars have concluded that James, the son of Zebedee, could not have been the author because he was killed 25 years before the book was written. If James, the son of Alphaeus, had written the book, he probably would have mentioned his friendship with the Lord in his introduction. Also, very few references are made of him anywhere else in Scripture.

The most likely author is James, a relative of Jesus and brother of Jude. He spoke in Jerusalem (Acts 15) and there are similarities between the introductions of the letters of Jude and James.

St. Bartholomew

St. Bartholomew, who may also have been called Nathaniel, was one of the first Twelve Apostles of Jesus.

According to early accounts of the church, after Jesus had ascended into heaven, Bartholomew traveled extensively as a missionary. He reportedly preached in Arabia, Armenia, Ethiopia and Egypt.

He was instrumental in converting many people to Christianity. As a result he also made a few enemies among non-Christians. He was eventually captured by Armenian soldiers, whipped and killed. We honor Bartholomew on Aug. 24.

Bible Trivia

According to Matthew 10, James was one of the sons of Zebedee. Who was the other?

Send Answer to: *Catholic Courier Bible Trivia*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N. Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

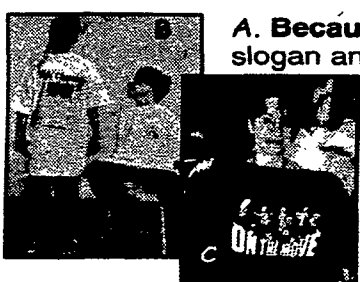
All entries must be received by Sept. 11, 1997. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Sean Smith, a student at Hilton Quest School in Hilton. He correctly identified Aaron as the brother of Miriam.

Puzzle

Find the names of the original Twelve Apostles in the puzzle box. Names may run in any direction. (The solution is on Page 2.)

Peter	A	Z	B	X	C	T	Y	D	W	E
Andrew	V	F	A	U	G	H	T	H	J	S
James	W	E	R	D	N	A	I	R	A	J
John	P	E	T	E	R	D	P	P	M	K
Philip	J	O	H	N	Q	D	H	L	E	S
Thomas	O	M	O	N	Z	E	I	A	S	A
Matthew	Y	B	L	X	C	U	L	T	W	D
James	D	V	O	E	U	S	I	H	F	U
Thaddeus	T	G	M	S	H	R	P	O	I	J
Simon	Q	J	E	P	K	S	I	M	O	N
Judas	O	L	W	E	H	T	T	A	M	N
Bartholomew	M	A	C	J	A	M	E	S	E	G



A. Because life isn't always... Our adult shirt features the Courier's slogan and a reprint of a page one article.

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modeled by Kelsey and Patrick

C. On the Move...A shirt designed for teens, by teens. modeled by Andrea Lipomi

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