

Title: Weekend at Bernie's

Text: James 2:20-26

Target: You can dress up something dead, but that doesn't make it alive.

- I. **Religious Ignorance:** *"Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?"* (Vs. 20)
 - A. **Danger of Spiritual Deception:** *"foolish"* is referring to someone who believes the opposite of what is actually true, as if it were true.
 - B. **Difference between Profession and Possession:** *"useless"* is the understanding of what is hollow and empty.
- II. **Righteous Assurance:** *"justified"* (Vs. 21, 24, 25)
 - A. **Justified Not Qualified:**
 1. The qualification for justification is not based upon works, for an unrighteous person can't make themselves righteous. (Galatians 2:16)
 2. A righteous Savior is only able to make an unrighteous person righteous (Romans 3:24)
 - B. **Received Not Achieved:** *"Counted"* (Vs. 23)
 1. **Abraham Believed God:** *"And he brought him outside and said, 'Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness."* (Genesis 15:5-6)
*John 8:56
 2. **Rahab Trusted God: (Joshua 2:9-11)**
 - a) **Full of Faith:** *"I know that the Lord has given you the land"* (Vs. 9)
 - b) **Full of Repentance:** *"As soon as we heard it, our hearts melted"* (Vs. 11a)
 - c) **Full of Belief:** *"for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath."* (Vs 11c)
- III. **Radical Obedience:** *"You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone."* (Vs. 24)
 - A. **Faith that Surrenders what it Loves: (Genesis 22)**
 1. **Perfect Timing:** *"Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.'"* (Genesis 22:10-11)
 2. **Proven Trust:** *"He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.'"* (Genesis 22:12)
 - B. **Faith that Risks What it Has: (Joshua 2:9-21)**
 1. **Scarlet Cord:** *"tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down"* (Joshua 2:18)
 2. **Set Apart:** *"and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household."* (Joshua 2:18b)
*PASSOVER-Exodus 12

3. Story Rewritten:

- a) **Line of Christ:** Great Great grandmother of King David to Jesus.
(Matthew 1:5)
- b) **Hero of the Faith:** She's named amongst the giants of the Faith.
(Hebrews 11:31)

Takeaway: "Faith alone justifies; but the faith that justifies is never alone." John Calvin