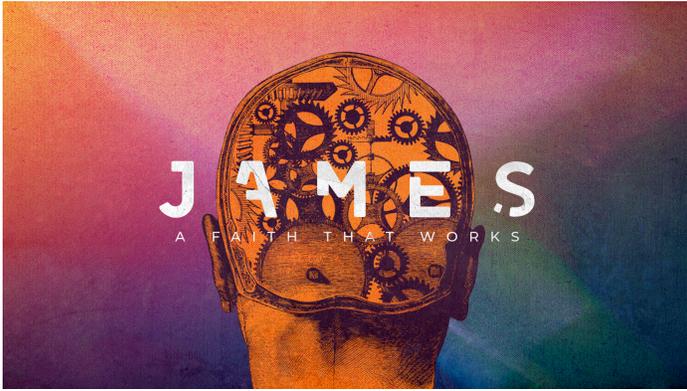


MESSAGE NOTES



Series: James
Message: How to Measure Success
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: March 21/22, 2020

success (def): *achieving the results wanted or hoped for* [Oxford Dictionary]

The question then is, “What do I want?”

Listen to what will happen to those that measure success by wealth, influence and power.

¹ Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. ² Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. ³ Your gold and silver have become worthless. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This treasure you have accumulated will stand as evidence against you on the day of judgment. ⁴ For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The wages you held back cry out against you. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. ⁵ You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you.

James 5:1-6 (NLT)

There is nothing wrong with being wealthy. There is much wrong when wealth (and my quest for it) has me.

A prayer that we would all benefit from...

⁷ O God, I beg two favors from you; let me have them before I die. ⁸ First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. ⁹ For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God’s holy name.

Proverbs 30:7-9 (NLT)

Jesus tells us God’s standard we should use to measure success...

³⁷ Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.

Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT)

Simply put, this boils down to obeying Him and serving others.

** A key reason God instructs all of us to “tithe” is to protect us from the temptation to measure success by wealth.*

The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

Some practical applications for us right now during the coronavirus scare...