

SERMON TAKE HOME- James 5v19-20-You, Bring them back

James has made it clear, there are many in the professing church who are false converts. Knowing this widespread problem, James ends with a call to the church

¹⁹*My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,* ²⁰*let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.*

Who is the call given to?

James does not say “if anyone among you wanders from the truth...go tell the elders or deacons so they can bring him back”. Rather he puts the onus each individual member. “whoever brings” him back. This is a call for each person in the church to see this as their own calling. If we see a brother/sister wandering, we are to go to them and by God’s grace bring them back.

- Being a part of a godly fellowship is not a passive role. It is an active role, and this is one of “works of the ministry” that you are called to fulfill.
- Purpose in your heart to fulfill this call and take every necessary action so you can fulfill this call

When someone begins to wander, you will not know if they are a genuine convert being deceived in sin or a false convert leaving the faith. In both cases you are to go.

- Meditate on Galatians 6:1 on the importance of your own soul and your approach to others

If we are to go after those who are wandering or caught in a transgression, then we must be aware of their wanderings or transgressions. In order to be aware of this, we must be in each other’s lives (beyond Sunday morning).

- Not at the expense of neglecting our God-given callings but this is also a calling so if you cannot fulfill God’s calling on your life, something is wrong.
- Examine your life (how you use your time, your job, etc) Is something out of order?
- To what extreme are you willing to go, to fulfill this call on your life?

Warning signs of a false convert:

- 1) They wander from truth “*wandering from the truth*”
- 2) A lifestyle that wanders as well “*brings back a sinner from his wandering (or his ways)*”

A turning from truth will inevitably lead to a turning to the world and sin.

A genuine believer can be deceived and “caught in a transgression” but when confronted with truth & the Lord, they will turn back.

- Recognize also that these things take time and prayer
- This can be uncomfortable but we must resolve what we will live for, our comforts or obedience. Follow Jesus Christ our example in laying your life (comforts) down for others

Paul said “*for the sake of the elect, I endure everything*” (2 Tim 2:10)

We are dealing with souls and eternity here (v20)-See and feel the weight of these matters

May God grant us (ministers of reconciliation 2 Cor 5), the grace & love to heed this call