

## James 2:15-17

### Compassion for Example

#### *Faith and Works Illustrated ...*

#### I. Words or Works

- A. Empty Blessings
- B. Meeting Needs

#### II. Care Commanded

- A. Christ's Community
  - 1. Conditioned
  - 2. Compassionate
  - 3. Generous
- B. The Right Heart
  - 1. Sacrificially
  - 2. Cheerfully
  - 3. According to Ability

#### III. Distributed Wisely

- A. Biblical Priorities
- B. Benevolent Prudence

... by a gracious heart and generous hand.

#### ***Children, Listen ...***

1. Is it enough to just say to people in need "the Lord bless you" or "I will pray for you?" Why or why not?
2. Is it enough to just say "we believe in Jesus?" Why or why not?
3. Is it a part of the Christian life to be kind and helpful to people in need?
4. What are some ways we can help people who have less than we do?
5. What does the "Good Samaritan" in Jesus' parable do for the man who was beaten and robbed?

## Wasted Words or Worthy Works

James uses an illustration to drive home the theme that faith without works is dead. But it is an illustration that addresses both a command to God's people as well the issue of compassionate hearts. He uses care for the poor as a practical example of how a word without substance is like a profession of faith without works. While his main goal is obviously to drive home the issue of genuine faith as opposed to worthless "faith" we can't wiggle out of the practical challenge of fulfilling that part of the Christian faith that both requires and compels us to care for the needy among us as best we can. Speak kind words to those in need, offer prayers for them for sure, but be sure to back up your expressed concern with tangible solutions to real needs of the people around you. Not wasted words, but active faith expressed with worthy works in the name of Christ.