

# Matthew Series

## Lesson #164

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

**Two Kinds of Justification**

**Matthew 25:31–46; James 2:18–24**

## Matthew 25:31–46

1. **Review: What is the context? Who are “the least of these my brethren”?**
2. **What is the Gospel [Old Testament; Gospel of the Kingdom; Church Age]?**
3. **What is the relationship between “faith and works”?**
4. **How did the sheep become righteous?**
5. **What is “eternal fire”?**
6. **What are the implications for us?**

## **Matthew 25:31–46**

- 1. Review: What is the context? Who are “the least of these my brethren”?**
- 2. What is the Gospel [Old Testament; Gospel of the Kingdom; Church Age]?**

**Matt. 24:14, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”**

## The Gospel of the Church Age

**Eph. 2:8–9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”**

**Titus 3:5, “He saved us, not on the basis of works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,”**

**Rom. 11:6, “But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works [*ek plus gen. of ergon*], otherwise grace is no longer grace.”**

## **Matthew 25:31–46**

- 1. Review: What is the context? Who are “the least of these my brethren”?**
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- 3. What is the relationship between “faith and works”?**

**Question 1: What is the relationship of faith to works?**

**The claim by many: The sheep are saved by works, faith without works (good deeds) is a false faith, therefore we are saved by faith plus good works or faith evidenced by good works.**

**The key passage for asserting this is James 2:14–26.**

## **James 2:14–26**

**Justification = faith minus works**

**Justification = faith plus works (in combination)**

**Justification = faith plus works (as the necessary result)**

- 1. James 2:14–17**      **The Principle:  
Doctrine without  
application is useless**
- 2. James 2:18–19**      **The Objector:  
Doctrine is all you need**
- 3. James 2:20–26**      **Illustrations:  
Abraham and Rahab  
Applied doctrine**

**James 2:14, “What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?”**

**ὄφελος *ophelos* nom neut sing value, profit, benefit, cf., James 2:16**

**James 2:14, “What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?”**

**James 1:21, “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”**

# THREE STAGES OF SALVATION

**PHASE ONE**

**PHASE Two**

**PHASE THREE**

**Justification**

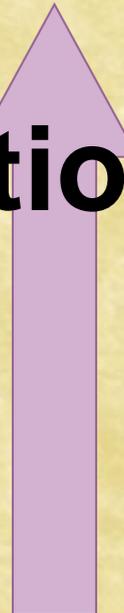
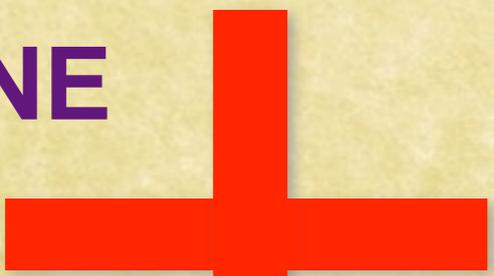
**Spiritual Life**

**Glorification**

**Saved from  
Penalty of  
Sin**

**Saved from  
Power of Sin**

**Saved from  
Presence of  
Sin**



**James 1:18, “In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.”**

**“my [beloved] brethren” = believers**

**James 1:22, “But become doers [appliers] of the word, and not merely hearers [listeners] who delude themselves.”**

**James 2:15, “If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,**

**James 2:16, “and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,’ and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use [value or benefit] is that?”**

**ὄφελος *ophelos* nom neut sing value, profit, benefit, cf., James 2:16**

**What spiritual benefit is it my brethren if someone claims to have doctrine, knows what the Bible teaches, but does not apply it? Can that doctrine deliver him from the destructive and deadly consequences of sin?**

**James 2:17, “Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead [useless, not non-existent], being by itself.”**

**THUS ALSO FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT DOES NOT HAVE APPLICATION, IS NON-PRODUCTIVE [sterile, not living or vital].**

## Objector:

**James 2:18, “But someone [*tis* cf., Js. 2:14, 2:16] may well say, ‘You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.’ ”**

**James 2:19, “ ‘You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.’ ”**

## **Questions:**

- 1. Are the words of this “someone” found only in the first part of vs. 18, the whole of vs. 18, or both vs. 18 and 19?**
- 2. Who is this “someone?”**

**James 2:18, “Someone will object, ‘And you claim to have faith!’ Yes, and I claim to have deeds as well; you show me your faith without any deeds, and I will show you by my deeds what faith is!” ~Moffatt**

**James 2:18, “But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” NKJV, NET, ESV, RSV, NIV**

**James 2:18, “But someone may well say, ‘You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.’ ” NASB**

**James 2:18, “Nay, some one will say, ‘You have faith, I have actions: prove to me your faith apart from corresponding actions and I will prove mine to you by my actions.**

**James 2:19, “ ‘You believe that God is one, and you are quite right: evil spirits also believe this, and shudder.’ ”  
~Williams, *Young’s Literal Translation***

## **Reasons the objector speaks in both vv. 18, 19**

- 1. Verses 18–19 are an example of a common literary or rhetorical device used in Greek literature called a diatribe.**

**Rom. 9:19, “You will say to me then, ‘Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?’**

**Rom. 9:20, “But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why have you made me like this?’ ”**

**1 Cor. 15:35, “But someone will say, ‘How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?’**

**1 Cor. 15:36, “Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.”**

2. Just as James 2:14 and 2:17 form an *inclusio*, also James 2:20 and 2:26 form an *inclusio*.

James 2:14, “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has **faith but does not have works?** Can faith save him?”

James 2:17, “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

James 2:20, “But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”

James 2:26, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

**James 2:18, “But someone may well say,  
‘You have faith, and I have works; show me  
your faith from [not “without”] the works,  
and I will show you my faith from my  
works.’ ”**

## **The Objector's Illustration**

**James 2:19, “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.”**

**His point: No necessary connection between what one believes and does.**

**Demons – shudder  
Christian – obey**

**James:**

**James 2:20, “But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?”**

**James 2:21, “Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?”**

**James 2:22, “Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect [teleioo, ‘mature’]?”**

**James 2:23, “And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*’ And he was called the friend of God.**

**James 2:24, “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not only by faith” [two types of justification—one for eternal salvation, one for spiritual maturation].**

**Rom. 4:1, “What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?”**

**Rom. 4:2, “For if<sup>1</sup> Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.”**

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- 4. How did the sheep become righteous?**

**Gen. 15:6, “And he believed in the LORD,  
and He accounted it to him for  
righteousness.”**

**Isa. 64:6, “For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”**

**Isa. 50:8, “He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me.”**

**Isa. 53:11, “He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.”**

**Rom. 4:3, “For what does the Scripture say? ‘*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*’**

**Rom. 4:4, “Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.**

**Rom. 4:5, “But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,”**

**How are we to be declared righteous  
before the throne of God?**

**Rom. 4:5, “But to him who does not work  
but believes on Him who justifies the  
ungodly, his faith is accounted for  
righteousness,”**