



August 14, 2022

Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

“Faith but no Deeds?”

*What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?
Can such faith save them? (From this week's scripture James 2:14-26)*

Hidden Scrolls in Qumran Caves

In the mid-1940s a Bedouin boy found a cave in the Judean Desert while searching for a lost animal, and in that cave, he found scrolls from two thousand years ago. Further exploration found more caves and more scrolls and scroll fragments. These became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient Jewish and Hebrew religious manuscripts.



Imagine a Second Letter of James

Imagine for a moment, that a recent discovery at the archaeological site of Qumran revealed in an unknown-until-now cave hiding additional clay pots holding more old manuscripts. Continue imagining if you will, that an almost complete manuscript titled “The Second Letter of James” was found. Upon translating this manuscript, it was revealed that James had written a follow-up letter to answer questions about his first letter, which we know in our New Testaments of today as The Letter of James.

What Might This Second Letter Contain?

In modern times we know about historical controversy and discussion of “The Letter of James”, particularly around the meaning and importance of Faith and Works. This imaginary Second Letter of James might focus on James 2:14-26. The historical arguments centered on which was more important, Faith or Works, and today we often hear similar discussions. Imagine this Second Letter of James saying something like:

“I am sorry to have caused such a disruption in your faith, your worship, your beliefs, and your good works! Please understand this first and foremost: the expression of our faith must be...must be...through deeds consistent with our faith. Our deeds complete and perfect our faith. Our faith is the root, the divine spark in us all, which determines our works consistent with the will of God. And therein lies our salvation. Let there be no misunderstanding of this at all!”

More Wisdom from James This Summer

We find ourselves past the mid-point of the summer season at the Chapel, and for the remaining Sundays we will finish our look at James, reading about “Proper Speech (3:1-18)”; “Our Relationship with Others and God (4:1-12)”; and “Responsibilities (5:10-20).”

Let us keep in our prayers: continued prayers for those suffering from extreme weather; those suffering from violence; all who are suffering from disease and hunger. Lord, hear our prayer!