

First Presbyterian Church of Santa Rosa

Sunday, May 16, 2021 ~ Scripture Reading

Text: Matthew 28:18-20 & James 2:14-24 (New International Version)

Our first reading is from the end of Matthew's Gospel, chapter 28, verses 18-20. Following his resurrection from the grave, Jesus charges his followers with these words:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Our second reading is from the letter of James, chapter 2 verses 14-24.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose

a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he

did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

The Word of the Lord!