

“Built Different”

INTRO//

-What's up Faith Students! Welcome to the best night of the week! We're so glad you're here and we hope you had a great Christmas and New Years!

CONNECTION//

-Who in here has siblings and feels like you're the favorite kid?

-who in here feels like you may not be?

-we've all likely had moments of jealousy towards a sibling, or jealousy in general.

-but what we can all agree on is how thankful we are that we weren't the sibling of JESUS! I mean can you imagine?? You couldn't do anything cool, you had no chance to be the favorite!

-But that was the reality for James, one of Jesus' brothers. And what's maybe even crazier is that he wasn't a believer or true follower of Jesus until AFTER the resurrection.

-But once he realized Jesus was the son of God and began to follow him, he played a big part in the early church! He eventually became the leader of the Jerusalem church and a large part of his ministry was encouraging the Jewish-background believers to prioritize sharing the gospel with Gentiles (Acts 15:13-20).

-But not only did he do that, he also wrote a book of the Bible! Can you guess what it's called? James, super creative. He wrote this book to Jews that were scattered and likely being persecuted for their faith.

-But this book today is known for being incredibly practical and full of wisdom, almost like a New Testament version of Proverbs. And with the very clear and blunt truth in the book, a summary of James' message really could be: **Just Do it**. And that's actually the title of our new series as we study the book of James.

-and to start this series, and really start this year, I wanna talk about what it looks like to be “Built different”. If you're taking notes you can go ahead and write that down, that'll be the title of the message tonight.

TENSION//

-Because the truth is, as Christians, we are called, created and made to be set apart, to stand out and really we were made to be **“built different”**. And this is a theme all throughout the book of James, again “just do it”, just do and be what we were called and created to do and be.

-Because Christians aren't called to live and be just like the world, we were called to live in a new way and life. But how do we do that? How do we know what we were called to and how do we live in that?

-Well we see this right off the bat in James 1:19-25

SCRIPTURE//

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. **20** Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. **21** So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. **23** For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. **24** You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. **25** But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

Tonight real quickly I wanna talk about being “Built Different”, and living the life that God has called us to. Because I want you to know tonight God has called us to so much more than we often settle for.

-We settle in so many areas of our lives

-relationships, habits, etc.

-but God has called us to more, and sometimes to step into the more of what God has for us we have to let go. Sometimes being “built different” looks like breaking down the things in our life that aren't of God.

1//SORT OUT THE LIES

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. **20** Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. **21** **So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.**

-“get rid of”

-we have to get rid of the evil and filth in our lives

-AKA: we have to get rid of the lies that we’ve believed

- lies of who we are
- lies of our purpose
- lies of what is best for us

-to get rid of the lies we have to sort out the lies, but how do we know what’s a lie vs a truth?

Illustration//

-You’ve maybe heard of this, but federal agents, government agents, when they study the difference between a real bill and a fake one, they don’t study the counterfeit bill, they study the real one so they know right away when they see a fake one

-in our life we often spend more time studying lies than the truth

-endless scrolling on our phones

-listening to music “just for the vibes”

-allowing all kinds of voices to speak into our lives through social media

-this leads us to be so confused about who we are, our identity, what truth is, etc.

-but if we would spend more time studying the TRUTH (the word), we would immediately recognize and be able to sort lies from the truth

-the lust of the world won’t heal me, the love of God will

-anger and division won’t change the world, God’s forgiveness will

-the things spoken over me aren’t my identity, God’s word is

PRACTICAL//

-this is why it’s CRUCIAL to study God’s word (devos, Bible study groups, Bible app)

-helps us sort out the lies from the truth

-how are we “built different” and set apart from the world? We sort out the lies

- we can do this when we:

2//SEARCH THE TRUTH

-by searching the word of God, by knowing and living the word of God, we will be set apart and “built different”

-how do we know who we are and what God has called us to do? How do we know the truth from the lies?

-“search the truth”! We get in the word of God

-this passage speaks to where our identity is found!

James 1:22-25

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ILLUSTRATION//

-imagine this! If I looked in this mirror, then walked away, and immediately couldn't tell you, and describe what I look like, what would you think?

-In the same way, when we hear the word of God but don't apply it, we don't actually live it, it's as if we're forgetting what we look like, because God's word, this truth, holds our identity, and what we were truly created for.

-God's word calls us to a standard, to let go of things that hold us back and hold us down, to lead us to freedom!

-I wanna encourage and remind you tonight, God's law and word is not to hold you back, it's to set you free, just as it says in this passage! (v.25), there's blessing in it!

-I challenge you to build a habit and a routine if you haven't already, of getting in the word, and searching the truth.

-As you do you'll understand your identity and what you were created for, you'll understand and see the difference between the lies and the truth.

-the truth is what you were created for, it's what you were created to live in

-you weren't created to settle for the lies of this world, you were created to walk in the truth of God

-if we believe he created all things, wouldn't we trust he knows what's best for his creation?

-Ultimately as we come to an understanding of who we are and how we're to live, we're used by God to reach others

-MAIN POINT// We can't show other's another way, when we look like the world

-we have to be set apart, and live + be "built different"

-that comes from sorting out the lies and searching the truth

CLOSING//

-Share testimony + story of knowing God's word but not applying it

-led me to be lost, hurt and broken

-It wasn't until I truly believed and walked in God's word that I found freedom

-"taking thoughts captive"

-"renewing of my mind"

-"live by the spirit"

-seeing the example of Jesus

-consistently getting alone to pray

-loving + intentionally caring for others

ALTAR//

-The response tonight is simple, what does this mean for ME?

1. Gospel Response

- You response and next step may be to first choose to follow Jesus. Choose to have a relationship with God by believing in what Christ did on the cross

2. Prioritize the word

- Maybe you have a relationship with God, you've chosen to follow Jesus, and what you can do is to prioritize getting in the Bible. We've made it really easy here at Faith Students and every week we provide a weekly devo plan through the Bible app that we actually go through together. This is a great way to start that discipline and habit, while also knowing you aren't in it alone.

END//

*emphasize the power of getting in the word and **APPLYING** it, **JUST DO IT***