



## Sermon Discussion Guide

### Both! Always both! - James Junior

5-10-26

#### Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- *Pastor James mentioned that we often fall into one camp or another. It's easier for us to live as a christian and focus on words or deeds. Which camp do you fall in?*
  - *Spend some time affirming the area you function in well! What is a time when your focus on words or deeds was rewarding for others or even for yourself?*
- *Try adding something new during this missions month. Have each person write 2-4 missionary names on pieces of paper and add them to a hat, jar, etc. Take a moment at the beginning of your time together and draw a couple names out of the hat and pray for them. This might take some preparation and could make more sense as a leader to write out/print out all of the names before the group begins.*
  - *The HC website has a list here:  
<https://www.hcbellingham.com/missions/>*
  - *If not drawing names out of a hat, choose a handful of missionaries and pray for them.*

#### Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**: Matthew 9:35-38 and 1 John 3:16-8.*
- *Reread these scriptures in a variety of versions: ESV, NASB, Old King James, The Message. If you have someone who speaks/reads a different language, allow them to read and perhaps translate how words come across in their language.*
  - *Note any differences in forcefulness, or choice of verbs, or general layout.*



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- *How do the words of Jesus (via Matthew) and the writings of John share with both the readers of that time AND Christians today the vision Jesus was casting for reaching the world around us?*
- *What other occasions does Jesus bring both word and deed into action to bring the good news? What does this look like? What words does he share? What deeds accompany them?*
  - *Ex. Feeding the 5000, Raising of Lazarus, healing the man born blind*

#### Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- *How does Hillcrest embody proclaiming and action? Where does this community pair both with great effect? Where is it falling short?*
- *Spend some time praying about what it would look like in the life of the church to combine word and deed in a new way? Would you be part of this?*
- *What would proclaiming and serving in word and deed look like in downtown Bellingham? In Lynden? In the fields of raspberries in Whatcom County? In both the high rise offices and under the overpasses in Seattle?*

#### Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
- *What is most uncomfortable for you to imagine adding... words or deeds? Why?*
- *It is uncomfortable to reflect on where we fall short, but where are we missing what Jesus is asking us to do? Pastor James said that we all can't just drop everything and do emergency c-sections in the jungle, but we can tell others why we do the things we do... we can help more and back up the words we*



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*say aloud. What are you being asked to do in your own sphere of friends, influence, community?*

Time of Prayer