**The Gospel and Orphans**

Isaiah 1; James 2

Steve Holdaway, LifeSpring Church, 10.04.15

LifeGroup Book: *Counter Culture,* David Platt

**Big Idea:** God takes very seriously how we respond to those who need special help in our society. True religion results in action.

**God has a heart for orphans, widows, and “foreigners.”**

**Deuteronomy 10:17-18** ESV For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner…

**God will not accept “religion” in place of action.**

**Isaiah 1** ESV 11 "What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

12 "When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? 16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil,

17 learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

**James 2** 14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead….

**James 1:27** Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

**3 types of faith:** dead faith,

demonic faith,

doing faith

**Never forget: You were an orphan. Ephesians 1:4-5**

In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ…

Organizations: Christian Heritage: chne.org

New Day Orphanage: newdayorphanage.org

Kiva (micro-investing in poor/single moms): kiva.org