Faith and Actions: James 2 vv. 14 - 26

*(To mime: two men greet each other outside the local supermarket. It is apparently pouring with rain. One looks depressed, is soaking wet and weighed down with two heavy shopping bags, mostly full of tins; the other has a huge umbrella and walks in a cheerful and breezy manner)*

Gary: *(cheerfully*) Hi, Bob!

Bob: (*looking up in surprise*) Oh, hello, Gary!

Gary: Great sermon yesterday, wasn’t it, brother?

Bob: Yes, yes, it was. Very uplifting. I needed the encouragement actually as…

Gary: (*cuts him off*) Been shopping, have we??!

Bob: Yes…They mark everything down after 5pm, you know, and since I lost my job…

Gary: (*again apparently not hearing- or listening to - the last bit)* Well, I’d be a bit careful if I were you: the quality of those mark downs can be very poor…

Bob: Yes, but they’re cheap, Gary! And Sandra’s on sickness benefit so ….

Gary: *(interrupts* *cheerfully*) That’s not everything, you know...! Besides, those bags look very heavy..(*he takes one from Bob, nearly drops it as it’s so heavy then gives it straight back to Bob who, in turn, nearly falls over with the weight).* Golly! I’ll pray for you to get a bit fitter, brother. You’ll need a bit more muscle, by the look of you!

Bob: (ironically). Thanks!

Gary: Going far, are you?

Bob: Well, yes, actually. I’m walking home…Haven’t got the money for the bus fare. The kids need their school uniforms this month so ….

Gary: (*stops walking, is distracted, not listening to Bob and looking around for someone*) Well, enjoy the walk!

Bob: (*stopping for a short breather*)What are you doing in town anyway?

Gary: Just been to see my accountant actually. I agreed I’d meet my chauffeur just here. I haven’t got time for a walk like you! Much as I’d like it. I could do with an afternoon ramble…

Bob: it’s not exactly a *ramble*, Gary…!

Gary: (*suddenly remembering something*): Oh, I nearly forgot! The guys and I in the Men’s group at church were meeting together last week and your name came up. …You’ll be delighted to know that a few of us have decided to make you an offer…

Bob: (*perking up*)…An offer?!

Gary: It’s not much and only temporary, of course…

Bob: (*excited now).* Oh, of course. How amazingly thoughtful of you!

Gary: I knew you’d be pleased!

Bob: (bit tearful) I can’t tell you how much it will mean to us all. It’s only until the final settlement comes through next month…

Gary: We realised that so have committed ourselves….

Bob: (*eagerly)*: Yes…

Gary: (*triumphantly*)…to praying for you every day for a week!

Bob: (*trying to sound pleased*) Oh! Oh! That’s …..wonderful, of course…So good of you…Yes….(*trying to convince himself)* Thank you!

Gary: (*mimes waving at his chauffeur*): Ah, there he is. At last…Well, bye for now!

Bob: (*desperately)* Gary, do you think you could do me a big favour?

Gary: (*in jolly tone*)Of course! What can I do you for?

Bob: You couldn’t give me a lift home, could you?

Gary: (*suddenly serious*) Bob, I’d like to, I really would – but you’re soaking, brother. Totally soaking! And the leather trim on my Rolls is very sensitive to water. We have to take seriously our duty to be good stewards of our money, you know! And this car cost a bomb!!

Bob : (*somewhat bitterly now)*I don’t doubt it!

Gary: (*playfully)* Anyway, beat you home!

Bob: (gloomily) No doubt you will!

Gary: Not necessarily, with all this traffic…And I’ve got farther to go, remember..

Bob: (*hint of sarcasm now*) Of course, you live at No 2.

Gary: Where are you again?

Bob: No 1…!

Gary: (*no irony*)There we are. Another 100 yards closer...Got to prepare for the Bible study tonight as well..It’s always such a rush after seeing the accountant. Takes so long to go through all my affairs – and you can’t be too careful with that amount of money! Got to make it work. Remember the parable of the talents, bro’...(*Bob rolls his eyes at this*) So, will we be seeing you and Sandra tonight at the study?

Bob: I think not, ‘brother’ (*with heavy, sarcastic emphasis*)! I think not… (*he trudges off*)

*Gary shrugs and closes his umbrella*