Talk Is Cheap
Week 1: James, the Misunderstood

I. Introduction

- **Welcome and Greetings**
  - Pastor Craig introduces himself and welcomes the congregation and online community.
  - Personal anecdote about being misunderstood in his first adult job.
- **Theme Introduction**
  - Introduction to the series on the Letter of James, highlighting its misunderstood nature.

II. Understanding Misunderstanding

- **Personal Experience**
  - Story of misunderstanding in communication from Pastor Craig's experience.
- **General Challenges in Leadership**
  - The challenge of being misunderstood in leadership roles.
- **Theological Misunderstandings**
  - Introduction to the theological tension between the Letter of James and the letters of Paul and others.

III. Historical Context

- **Orthodox Christianity**
  - Definition of orthodoxy.
  - Importance of adhering to the Bible's teachings.
- **The Reformation**
  - Martin Luther's response to the Catholic Church's stance on faith and works.
  - Introduction of the Five Solas.
  - Key scripture: Ephesians 2:4-10.

IV. The Letter of James

- **James' Tension with Paul's Teachings**
  - Martin Luther's view on James as an "Epistle of Straw."
  - The tendency to overlook James due to its emphasis on works.
- **James 2:26**
  - Faith without works is dead.
  - The necessity of works as an evidence of genuine faith.

V. Introduction to James, the Half-Brother of Jesus

- **James' Background**
  - His family's initial reaction to Jesus' ministry.
  - James' transformation post-resurrection.
- **James' Leadership**
  - James' role as a leader in the Jerusalem Church.
  - His devotion to Jewish Scriptures and the Torah.

VI. Wisdom and Obedience

- **James' Perspective on the Law**
  - Integration of Torah and Shema into Christian living.
  - Obedience as a response to the resurrection power.
- **Loving God and Neighbors**
  - The connection between love for God and love for neighbors.
  - Love defined as sacrifice for others' good.

VII. Conclusion

- **Call to Action**
  - Encouragement to engage deeply with the Letter of James.
  - Emphasis on not resolving the tension between faith and works too quickly.
- **Final Thoughts**
  - Anticipation of the wisdom to be gained from James.
  - Reminder of James' foundational role in early Christianity.