

**James 2:1-13 (NIV)**

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. <sup>2</sup>Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. <sup>3</sup>If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup>Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? <sup>7</sup>Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

<sup>8</sup>If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. <sup>9</sup>But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. <sup>11</sup>For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

<sup>12</sup>Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, <sup>13</sup>because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

# THE OBSTACLE: FAVORITISM

- not \_\_\_\_\_ for followers of Jesus (vvs. 1-4)
- not \_\_\_\_\_ with God's character (vvs. 5-7)
- not a \_\_\_\_\_ infraction in God's laws (vvs. 8-11)
- not \_\_\_\_\_ who you were/are (vvs. 1, 5, 12-13)  
(cf., Leviticus 19:34)  
(cf., Luke 7:47)

## THE BIG IDEA:

\_\_\_\_\_ \* leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ \* leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

\* (who you were/are)

## FOR MEDITATION/REFLECTION:

- How would you describe the people you associate the most?  
Diverse or same?
- Who is not like you, but who you can reach with the life-changing message of Jesus?