

THE FOLLY OF FAVORITISM
JAMES: A FAITH THE WORKS - PART 4
JAMES 2:1-13
LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Open with prayer and getting caught up on everybody's week.

Read the sermon summary: The message this week was on the folly of favoritism. James hammers home that when we favor the rich over the poor it violates the character of Christ, it dishonors the humble believer whom God has chosen and it breaks the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. We should remember that we will give account to Christ so we must accept God's mercy and extend it in all our relationships.

2. What's something from the sermon that stood out to you or you felt was important?

3. Read James 2:1-4.

- James gives an example of favoritism from his day. Where do you see favoritism or prejudice in our society?
- What are examples of ways it can creep into a church?
- Why do you think many people give preferential treatment to those with money?

4. Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. How is respect for authority (or the elderly or a special guest etc) different than favoritism?

5. Read James 2:5-7.

- Is God showing favoritism to the poor here? Explain.
- From a practical standpoint why was it foolish for the early Christians to favor the rich over the poor?
- To what extent is James description of the rich and powerful valid today?

6. Read James 2:8-13

James reminds us that favoritism violates the royal commandment and we will give account of our lives on judgement day. For those who trust in Jesus this accounting is not for salvation but reward. Is that something you have thought much about? Why is it spiritually beneficial to remember that?

If you want to dig deeper, discuss what additional insight these scriptures give: Matthew 25:14-30, 1 Cor 3:10-15, 2 Cor 5:10, Rom 14:10-13.

7. The Cross is the ultimate example of the triumph of mercy over judgement. How has the mercy you received there affected the way you interact with others?

8. What are some ways you can put this teaching into practice in your everyday life?

9. Close in prayer for one another.