

## James – Partiality

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James 2:1-13

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### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

#### **We must practice our faith without partiality**

Because what we believe about Jesus is changing everything about us, we should act differently than the world around us.

Read and discuss James 2:1-4(ESV)

**2** My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. **2** For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, **3** and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” **4** have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

\*How should James’ tone and posture here inform our understanding of these verses?

\*How are these words relevant for us today? What examples would you give of favoritism?

\*What have you noticed you tend to ‘make distinctions’ about?

#### **God has chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith**

James takes what is causing distinction and judgement among the people and flips it on its head.

Read and discuss James 2:5-8(ESV)

**5** Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? **7** Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? **8** If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

\*What does this passage tell us about God?

\*What is the upside down value James is showing us in these verses?

\*What is the ‘royal law’? How is this law absent of favoritism?

#### **Showing partiality makes us guilty of violating all of God’s law**

We are called to speak and act as those judged under the law of liberty.

Read and discuss James 2:9-13(ESV)

**9** But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. **11** For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. **12** So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. **13** For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Matthew 22:37-40

**37** And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **38** This is the great and first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **40** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

\*What does this passage in Matthew show us about the law of liberty?

\*What would it mean to act like you would be judged by the law of freedom?

\*What does mercy mean? How is it different than tolerance?

\*When have you seen mercy triumph over judgement?

**Faith in Jesus isn't just for the individual; it's a gift to one another and to the world**

James' words are for us personally and for us as a community.

\*Are there places you let partiality or favoritism influence the way you view or treat people?

\*Why is this passage important for us at a community level?

**Join us as we read through the book of James this fall as a church**

[James Reading Plan](#)

September 27th – October 3<sup>rd</sup>

James 5:1-20

**Visual reflection (Visio Divina)\*** [Brilliance](#) by Synthia Saint James

**Song for reflection** [You Love All Your People](#) by Page CXVI

\*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.