

James 2:1-13

No Favoritism With God

Welcome back and here we go!

Today we start the second chapter of James, and it is all about favoritism. In this particular instance it is concerning wealth, but really it is a broader teaching on favoritism in general.

Last week in *James 1:22-27*, we learned *pure religion* is helping the underserved and oppressed. So, today this is like a bookend, an exclamation point as to what we should be doing!

James 2:1-13

- 1) Why do people show partiality --- “besides wealth”?

There are many reasons why people show partiality as we have just seen. Certainly, wealth is a big reason for partiality, for being partial to. God is never partial, and the Word of God says God shows NO PARTIALITY.

Romans 2:1-11

No --- rather we are rewarded each according to their own works/deeds.

It is funny that Romans compares partially with judgment.

- 2) How is judging --- showing partiality?

Do you despise the *riches of His goodness*? Ouch!

Often the judgment is “*this person can help me in some way.*”

Then comes the manipulation, the positioning, the schmoozing so to speak.

James 3:13-18

- 3) *James 3:14*: How do people lie to themselves about motives? (hard question!)

The truth is --- more often than not --- we are aware of our motives. This scripture is always, ALWAYS, the Litmus test for me. It is a challenge: *“Do not lie against the truth!”*

4) *James 2:5*: Does this verse apply to you? Are you the poor of the world?

I think certainly we all have people poorer than us, but on the grand scale, we are pretty poor!

😊 We don't have second homes in Aspen! In some circumstances, we may be overlooked.

5) Have you ever been overlooked because of your position?

Remember this book harkens back to the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. *Matthew 5:3, Matthew 6:19-24.*

“Eye is dark” – “lying against the truth” – similar concepts.

James 2:8-13

6) Why is partiality so condemned?

When we show partiality or favoritism, we are making a judgment. This person has more value than another and usually it is for personal gain. Not always, but often.

So it is up to you to determine why you show less love to some and more love to others.

Let's pray.