

JAMES: Do We Pick Favorites?

Text: James 2:1-7

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Food for Thought for the week of July 3, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

Text: James 2:1-7

JAMES 1:26-27

RECAP:: True religion is a demonstration of impartial love.

It's not our perfection that proves our salvation, it's the reaction to our imperfection.

MATTHEW 22:36-40

Big Question: Is this a suggestion or a demand?

Our faith ought to be consistent with the ways of Jesus.

JAMES 2:1-3

To say we are a Christian and at the same time show partiality is an absolute contradiction.

God deals with everyone purely on the basis of the inner person.

It's in God's nature to be impartial.

We don't get what we earn, rather, we get what Jesus earned.

JAMES 2:4-7

If we show partiality we dishonor God and reveal that we don't understand the Gospel.

Spiritual poverty is humility with a deep awareness of our need for God.

To show partiality and to profess faith in Jesus is to be inconsistent.

REFLECTION - WHAT DO YOU SEE? WHAT DOES GOD SEE?

1. Reflect on this week's sermon. What impacted you?

2. Think back to last Sunday's sermon. Where in this last week have you needed to be reminded that you are God's beloved?

3. Look at Chapter 1 verses 26 and 27. Who are the afflicted in and around your life? What has God taught you through those afflicted and disadvantaged populations?

4. Read Matthew 25:40. Think about those in your life and in the surrounding community who live in the margins (widows, single parents, orphans, the poor, homeless etc.). Have you ever been afflicted? If so, how did someone serve you well?

5. "My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory." [2:1] What does, "show no partiality" have to do with, "as you hold your faith in our Lord Jesus Christ"? What does the phrase, "the Lord of glory" say to the issue of partiality?

6. What are the root causes of a person being partial? [i.e. pride, assumption, fear] Unpack these in your discussion.

7. Read Philippians 2:3, 1 Corinthians 10:24, and 1 John 3:17. What do these passages teach us about the heart of service?

8. How can you, as a group, serve someone who is disadvantaged or afflicted this week? What would stop you from doing so or make you hesitate?



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