

THE BOOK OF JAMES

STUDY THREE - JAMES 2:1-13

1) Where do you think people are most tempted to show favouritism today (work, school, church, social media, friendships)? Why?

Read James 2:1-7

2) Can you put James example in verse 2-3 into the context of our own church (not just Sundays but all of life together as God's church)?

3) How does God view the powerful and the poor differently to the world (v5-7)?

- Why do you think God often chooses the "poor in the eyes of the world"? (See also *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*)
- How does this challenge your own assumptions and thoughts at times about who is important?

Read James 2:8-11

4) What does it mean to "love your neighbour as yourself" ?

- In what ways does favouritism break this command?
- Can you think of subtle forms of favouritism that don't feel obvious but still violate love?

5) Why do you think James is so strong in breaking one part of the law makes someone a lawbreaker (v10-11)?

Read James 2:12-13

7) What do you think it means that God's law is a "law that gives freedom"? How can obedience to God actually bring freedom rather than restriction?

James declares "Mercy triumphs over judgement."

8) What is mercy and how does it oppose favouritism?

9) How does Jesus model the opposite of favouritism and how can we imitate it in our own lives?

10) Final exercise or 'homework

"Where am I showing favouritism?"

Take a few quiet minutes and reflect on the following questions. You don't need to share unless you feel comfortable.

1. People I naturally move toward

Who are the kinds of people I tend to gravitate toward quickly?

- What do they have in common?
- What do I admire about them?

2. People I naturally avoid

Who are the kinds of people I tend to avoid, overlook, or feel awkward around?

- What is it about them that makes me uncomfortable or disengaged?

Where/How can I start to show mercy instead of favouritism in my life?



NEXT WEEK - JAMES 2:14-26