

No Favourites

James 2:1-13

July 12, 2026



DAY 1: THE MIRROR BEFORE THE WEAPON

READING: JAMES 2:1-4

Before we can address favouritism in others, we must examine our own hearts. James invites us to hold Scripture as a mirror of self-reflection, not a weapon to wield against others. When we encounter two people—one influential, one unnoticed—what rises within us? Do we lean toward the powerful and avoid the ordinary? This instinct reveals more about our hearts than we'd like to admit. We've inherited a sinful nature that subconsciously assigns value based on worldly standards. But God sees differently. He doesn't measure worth by followers, bank accounts, or social status. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where you've shown partiality, and confess it honestly before Him.

Reflection Question: Who have I recently treated differently based on their outward appearance or social status?

DAY 2: GOD'S IMPARTIAL LOVE

READING: LUKE 23:32-43

The thief on the cross is one of Scripture's most powerful pictures of God's impartiality. Here was a convicted criminal, sentenced to death, hanging beside Jesus. Yet Christ looked at him with the same mercy He extends to you and me—not through the lens of favourites, but through radical grace. Jesus doesn't operate on a value system of who deserves what. He offers mercy freely to all who turn to Him. This is the foundation of our faith: we are all equally undeserving, yet equally loved. When we grasp how undeserving we are of God's mercy, we stop deciding who deserves ours. Let this truth reshape how you see every person you encounter today.

Reflection Question: How does understanding my own unworthiness change how I extend mercy to others?

DAY 3: THE COMPANY JESUS KEPT

READING: LUKE 19:1-10 (ZACCHAEUS); JOHN 4:1-26 (WOMAN AT THE WELL)

Jesus was known as "a friend of sinners"—another beautiful description alongside that of King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Prince of Peace. He didn't chase status or wait for invitations from the powerful. Instead, He moved toward the outsider, the overlooked, the rejected. Zacchaeus was despised as a tax collector; Jesus invited Himself to dinner. The Samaritan woman carried shame from her past; Jesus met her there with living water. Christ's ministry was marked by compassion that crossed every social boundary. If we claim to follow Him, our lives should reflect the same pattern. Courtesy levels the room. Compassion moves toward people. Who are the "outsiders" in your world? Jesus is calling you to sit with them, to make space, to show them they belong.

Reflection Question: Who is one person I've been avoiding that Jesus might be calling me toward?

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DAY 4: LOVE WITHOUT PARTIALITY

READING: LEVITICUS 19:18; MATTHEW 22:36-40

"Love your neighbour as yourself" isn't a suggestion—it's the second greatest commandment. Jesus didn't just preach this; He lived it. James brilliantly connects Old Testament law with New Testament grace, showing us that favouritism isn't just socially awkward—it's spiritually serious. When we play favourites, we're acting as judges with evil motives, replacing God's judgment with human preference. We cannot separate how we treat people from how we relate to God. Our love for others is the overflow of our love for Him. Favouritism asks, "Who matters most?" Compassion answers, "Everyone matters." Today, practice loving someone you wouldn't naturally gravitate toward. Let mercy flow from the grace you've received.

Reflection Question: In what relationship am I withholding the same compassion God has shown me?

DAY 5: MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT

READING: JAMES 2:10-13

James delivers a sobering truth: you can't pick and choose obedience. Favouritism isn't a minor issue God overlooks—it reveals whether mercy has truly taken root in your heart. If grace has genuinely transformed you, mercy will flow consistently from your life. Speak and act like your faith actually matters, like you're accountable for how you treat every person. "Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful, but mercy triumphs over judgment." This isn't about earning salvation—it's about evidence of salvation. When mercy reached your life through Christ, it changed everything. Now let it flow through you with consistency. Make mercy not just a moment, but a lifestyle. Break the chains of favouritism through courtesy, compassion, and consistency.

Reflection Question: What would change in my daily life if I truly lived like mercy triumphs over judgment?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, cleanse me from the world's way of favouritism and its value system. Give me Your compassionate heart and eyes to see people the way You do. Help me to be courteous to all, moved by compassion toward the overlooked, and consistent in showing mercy. May Your church be the one place where nobody wonders if they belong. In Jesus' name, Amen.