

James Series Going Deeper

5- Day Devotional

Week 7, Day 3: The Sin of Favoritism

Primary Scripture

James 2:1

“My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.”

Primary Focus Statement

The gospel destroys favoritism because every person stands equally in need of the mercy of God.

Devotional Teaching

James confronts something deeply rooted in human nature: favoritism.

He describes a situation where a wealthy and influential man enters the church gathering and is immediately honored, while a poor man is ignored and pushed aside.

James says this kind of behavior completely contradicts the gospel.

Why?

Because the gospel teaches that all people stand equally guilty before God apart from grace. Wealth cannot save us. Status cannot save us. Influence cannot save us. Success cannot save us.

Every person who has ever been saved was saved by mercy alone.

Favoritism happens when we value people according to worldly standards instead of kingdom standards.

We may not openly admit it, but we are often tempted to value people based on appearance, popularity, influence, success, talent, or usefulness.

But Jesus consistently moved toward the overlooked, rejected, broken, and hurting people of society.

The gospel humbles us because it reminds us that we ourselves were spiritually poor apart from Christ.

When we truly understand how much mercy we have received, it becomes impossible to look down on others with pride.

Reflection Questions

1. **Am I tempted to value people based on status, appearance, or influence?**
2. **Are there people I naturally overlook or avoid?**
3. **How does the gospel reshape the way I see people?**

Action Step

Intentionally speak with, encourage, or serve someone today that others might normally overlook.