

James - Faith @ Work | An Expository Sermon Series
James 2:1-7 | Pt. 9 | "The Sin of Partiality" | June 28th, 2026

Review / Summary:

The sermon explored James 2:1-7, where we are confronted with the sin of favoritism and partiality within the church and our personal lives. James challenges us to see beyond social barriers, wealth, and external appearances, demonstrating God's unconditional love to everyone we encounter.

This passage reminds us that God values all people equally and calls us as believers to mirror that value in how we interact with each other. Whether someone is wealthy or poor, influential or marginalized, clean-cut or unconventional in appearance, the gospel breaks through every barrier to offer redemption to all. Our tendency toward favoritism—often rooted in our own insecurities and selfish desires—dishonors both our fellow human beings and God Himself.

Key Takeaways:

- Favoritism is ingrained in our sinful nature and manifests both externally (how we treat people) and internally (the judgments we make in our hearts). We must acknowledge these sinful attitudes and remember that Christ never showed partiality toward anyone, calling us to a new standard of love.
- God has chosen the spiritually poor to be rich in faith, reminding us that true wealth is not determined by worldly standards but by His grace. We must accept His sovereign choice and recognize that we too were once poor and needy before God extended His mercy to us.
- As recipients of God's mercy, we are called to extend that same mercy to others, aligning ourselves with His holy justice and becoming agents of reconciliation and love in a world that prioritizes wealth and power over people.

Practical Applications: What This Means For You (Choose One or Two to Try This Week)

- **Prayer Exercise:** Ask God to reveal one area where you show favoritism. Confess it and ask for His help to change.
- **The Mirror Test:** When you meet someone new this week, pause and ask yourself: "Am I making judgments based on appearance? How would Jesus see this person?"
- **Gratitude Practice:** Each day, thank God for showing you mercy when you were spiritually poor.

Going Deeper into James 2:1-7:

1. James uses a church setting as his example, but favoritism happens everywhere. Where are you most tempted to show partiality? Think about why, then write out your reasons below.

~ At work?

~ On social media?

~ In your neighborhood?

~ In consumer settings?

2. James points out the irony that believers dishonor the poor while the rich often oppress them. Why do you think we're tempted to honor those who might not honor God?

3. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7. How does knowing that God will execute perfect justice help us treat all people with dignity now?

Questions for Reflection:

1. The Walmart Scenario: The pastor described three different people at a store entrance. Be honest—what automatic judgments or assumptions do you make about people based on appearance? Where do you think these come from?

2. What insecurities within yourself might be driving favoritism or discrimination toward others, and how can centering your life on Christ address these?

3. In what ways does our culture's obsession with celebrities and influencers reflect a form of idolatry, and how can we guard against this in our own hearts?

4. In what ways do you find yourself unconsciously making judgments about people based on their external appearance or social status, even before speaking to them?

Memory Verse: James 2:8-9

"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors."

Spend Time Praying This Week:

- Confess areas where you may have shown favoritism
- Ask God to help you see people as He sees them
- Pray for opportunities to demonstrate Christ's inclusive love
- Thank God for His mercy and grace shown to you