

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 11TH, 2022 // BOOK OF JAMES

FAVORITISM (JAMES 2:1-13)

"DO NOT SHOW FAVORITISM"

James makes it clear that faith and favoritism are completely incompatible. His illustration isn't difficult to understand: stop judging people.

- **We may desire to say that we would never do this but are we being honest with ourselves?** We see, we think, and then we act. **When does our relationship with Christ meet our judgment of others?**

"OUR GLORIOUS LORD JESUS CHRIST"

The world is quick to judge and label everyone, but we are not like we used to be. We

KNOW Christ and His sacrifice for us all.

- **When we know this Christ, we cannot show favoritism. We cannot attribute too much to the wealthy, and we definitely cannot look down on the poor because this is who Christ came for: us, in all of our poverty!**

MERCY

Favoritism disrespects people and dishonors God as we judge others. We should reflect the mercy of Christ that we found on the cross.

- **When you have experienced the mercy of Christ, God's mercy in you overflows from you. The hard truth: If we do not extend mercy, we demonstrate that we have not received mercy.**

FRUIT (JAMES 2:14-19)

"CLAIMS TO HAVE FAITH"

James is saying that it is possible to claim to have faith but not be saved. Then he describes what saving faith doesn't look like.

- **Dead faith doesn't DO anything. Faith that is only spoken doesn't help others or save anyone. Real, saving faith will always reach out to those in physical and spiritual need.**

FAITH AND WORKS

James is NOT saying that works are required for salvation. He IS saying that acts of mercy are the necessary results of salvation.

- **Works, deeds, and actions are not optional for those who have faith; they are inevitable. Your faith is nonexistent if there are no deeds. It's not just what you think or feel; it's what you do!**

ACTION (JAMES 2:20-26)

"SENSELESS"

James struggles to comprehend how someone could ignore the truth of real faith.

- **Some have created lists of things they must do to stay "faithful," while others go on about all the things they don't have to do to be saved. James and Paul fought against both groups with a common message: Follow Christ.**

EXAMPLES

Both Abraham and Rahab were asked to reveal authentic faith through acts of life-or-death obedience.

- **We may not have this kind of extreme decision to make, but sometimes it may feel like it. In those times, we must allow our real faith to be revealed for our good and God's glory.**

RESULTS

Abraham and Rahab were justified in their actions. This is God making clear the relationship He had with each one of them.

- **Through our continuous faith in Christ, we find the natural overflow of knowing God as Father is to enjoy Him as a friend. This kind of relationship results in love and obedience.**

LOVE

- Faith and favoritism are incompatible.
- **Knowing and following Christ will make us see others as Christ sees them.**
- **We need to see men and women around us who are not Christians as those whom Christ created, as those whom He loves, and as those He desires to know Him.**

MERCY

- We received the greatest mercy at the cross when Christ died for us.
- **Because we have received, we will be merciful.**
- **You can't earn mercy; it's mercy because it can't be earned. This text is saying you can tell who has received mercy from God by the way they show mercy to others.**

SACRIFICE

- Abraham was a patriarch, and Rahab was a prostitute. God loved and saved them.
- **God reached across our sinfulness and has adopted us into His family.**
- **They were faithfully obedient. Are we willing to take a risk, go against the culture, and live for the glory of God?**