

Life Group Discussion Material - Sunday, November 1st Message

Merciful Faith: James 2:1-13

Refine Your Faith

1. The word for “partiality” or “favoritism” used in James means “receiving the face.” What is the significance of this meaning in context? *Hint: think about other sayings that relate to this such as “take it at face value,” etc.*
2. In verse 4, the word used for “distinctions” is the same word that James used in 1:6 to describe someone who is divided within themselves. Reread James 1:6 if you must. What is James really saying about someone’s faith who shows favoritism?
3. What would make the poor person question the validity of the person’s faith who discriminated against them?
4. Read the following verses and make some group observations about favoritism together:
Romans 2:11
Acts 10:34-35
James 2:9
Genesis 37:4
Galatians 3:28
Leviticus 19:15
John 3:16
5. One point of application from the sermon was: *Those whom you wish to get benefit from, the rich and powerful, are the ones who typically mistreat others.* Do you agree or disagree? If you disagree, reread James 2:6-7 and explain yourself.
6. Why is showing favoritism a sin? *Hint: read verses 8-11. To what is James comparing favoritism? What law does showing favoritism go against?*
7. Do you allow mercy to triumph over judgment (verse 13) or are you quick to make assumptions and judgment calls based on outward appearances?