

Week Two (August 8 – 14)

Day One: Favoritism

Read: James 2:1-13

Reflect:

- 1) Decide whether the following statements are True or False based on today's reading:
"When you show favoritism, you..."

T / F Honor God

T / F Insult the poor

T / F Love your neighbor as yourself

T / F Become a judge with evil thoughts

T / F Discriminate

- 2) According to James, the wealthy members of the church were being shown special favor. How were they, in turn, treating other members of the church?

- a) Exploiting them
- b) Dragging them into court
- c) Slandering Christ
- d) All of the above

- 3) Use James 2:12-13 and the following words to fill in the blanks:

judged, law, speak, not, mercy, freedom, act, judgment, triumphs, merciful

"_____ and _____ as those who are going to be _____ by the _____ that gives _____, because _____ without _____ will be shown to anyone who has _____ been _____. Mercy _____ over judgment!"

- 4) Have you ever treated someone differently because of where they lived or the kind of job they had? Are you more likely to show favor to a wealthy person because of their wealth, or a poor person because of their poverty? According to James, favoritism is sin (vs.9) Take a moment to pray and ask God to reveal any areas of favoritism in your life.

Memorize: "If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right, But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers." James 2:9-10

Day Two – Living Faith

Read – James 2:14-19, Matthew 7:21-23

Reflect:

- 1) Indicate which of the following statements were said by Jesus and which were said by James:

“You believe there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder.” J _____

“Not everyone who says... ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of [the] Father who is in heaven.” J _____

“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such a faith save him?” J _____

- 2) James describes a church member who lacks clothing and food. He suggests that the best way to help them is to:
- a) Wish them well
 - b) Tell them to stay strong in the faith, and assure them God will provide
 - c) Give them food and clothing
 - d) Buy them a lottery ticket
- 3) Do you tend to have the acts of Christianity without the relationship, (like Jesus describes in Matthew) or do you have a private faith that yields no action (like James describes)? How is the Holy Spirit prompting you today? Where are you being challenged to grow in your faith?

Memorize:

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2:17

Day Three: Faith in Action

Read: James 2:20-26, Hebrews 11:17-19; 31

Reflect:

- 1) James gives Old Testament examples of faith in action when he refers to two famous Biblical characters (2:21 & 2:25). Which of the following pairs of words describe them?
 - a) Fisherman / Slave
 - a) Patriarch / Prostitute
 - b) King / Queen
 - c) Reporter / Flight Attendant

- 2) Fill in the following blanks:

(vs. 21) “Was not our ancestor Abraham considered _____ for what he _____ when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?”

(vs. 25) “In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered _____ for what she _____ when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?”

- 3) James says of Abraham, “You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made _____ by what he did.”
 - a) Stronger
 - b) Unnecessary
 - c) Complete
 - d) Contagious

- 4) The verses from Hebrews both begin with the same phrase. What is it? _____
Can you think of something God asked you to do in the past that required you to use those two words? Is there anything He is asking you to do right now? Pray and ask Him to give you the necessary faith to take the necessary action.

Memorize:

“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.” James 2:26
For additional information about the people James cited as models of “Faith in Action”, you can read Abraham’s story Genesis 22 and Rahab’s story in Joshua chapters 2 and 6:17-25