

Here's a Good Seat for You

Deep End Faith | May 15, 2022 | James 2:1-13 Mike Foster

Don't show favoritism!

The word translated “favoritism” or “partiality” literally means “receiving the face.”

Favoritism is a “self-serving discrimination based on shallow externals” – Ligon Duncan

Three failures of favoritism

- It believes something different than Jesus (vv. 1-4)
- It breaks the heart of God (vv. 5-7)
- It breaks the law of God (vv. 8-13)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Read 1 Samuel 16:6-7, Acts 10:34-35, and Colossians 3:9-11. What do we learn in these verses about the way God sees people?
3. Why do you think it's hard sometimes for people to feel like they belong in a church? Have you ever felt like you don't fit? Explain.
4. Share about a time when you were made to feel welcome in an uncomfortable situation. What difference did this make for you? Has this ever happened for you in a church or ministry setting?
5. Read Matthew 22:16. According to this verse, why was it so hard for the religious leaders to trap Jesus? Can you think of examples in Jesus' ministry when He proved to be no respecter of persons?
6. Read Matthew 22:16 again. Imagine how encouraging it might be to have someone say this about you? In what areas might you need to grow in order for this to be true of you?
7. Describe a time when you were tempted to show favoritism or partiality of some kind? How did you succeed or fail? What did God teach you through that experience?
8. Imagine being a church and receiving this letter from James. What kinds of things might that church need to do in order to make sure the situation in verses 2-4 does not occur?
9. What kind of things might our church need to do in order to protect against favoritism and to help people “find their fit” in our body? Is there something the Lord would lead you to do to help?
10. What would it look like next Sunday for you to say “Here's a good seat for you” to someone? Be specific.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Memorize verses in James using the “Scripture Memory Fellowship” App

Read Leviticus 19:15, Deuteronomy 10:17-18, 1 Samuel 16:6-7, Proverbs 22:2, Acts 10:34-35, Colossians 3:9-11

Read “Favoritism: A Contradiction of Christian Living” –
<https://rts.edu/resources/favoritism-a-contradiction-of-christian-living/>

Read “The Peril of Partiality: Riches and Race in the Christian Church” -
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-peril-of-partiality>

Watch “The Sin of Elitism” –
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eoqx9lg3NEo>

Listen to “They will see God” -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcxAPb4i83I>

How to Connect with James deeper:

- **Study -**

Read James once a week until Easter – pick up one of our Scripture Journals to help you.



- **Memorize -**

Memorize James using the Scripture Memory Fellowship App.

Aim for one verse – James 1:2 or 1:25

Aim for one passage – James 1:2-4

Aim for 10 key passages – James 1:2-4, 1:13-15, 1:19-20, 1:22-25, 2:1, 2:26, 3:9-10, 3:17-18, 4:7-8, 5:16

Aim for one chapter – James 1

Aim for the whole book?!



- **Join -**

Join or start a small group to discuss James: If you'd like to start one, please send an email to forcey-office@forcey.org



- **Invite -**

Prayerfully invite someone else to join us in our study of James – use our invite cards

- **Pray -**

Make a habit of kneeling in prayer, like James.

Pray for wisdom from God.

Pray for God to reveal ways you can be seeing and serving people in the margins! (Pray for our divorce care and widows together ministries)

Pick up a wristband to remind you that your faith was made for the deep end