



James: Playing Favorites

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Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, is there a particular point you recall that caught your attention or you found challenging or confusing?
2. Read **James 2:1-13**. The big idea is: The church should be a place of acceptance without favoritism. How have you seen favoritism in the church? (any church—not necessarily Grace Church) How about acceptance? Give some examples.
3. The first truth Derek shared is: our standard of acceptance is Jesus and not our culture. Why was Jesus born into a humble family in an obscure town? Can you give examples of how Jesus interacted with and loved the wealthy? (Nicodemus; Zaccheus [**Luke 19**]; Joseph of Arimathea) How did Jesus love the unlovable? (demon-possessed; those with disgusting illnesses [**Matthew 8:2-3**]; woman who committed adultery; Samaritan woman [**John 4**])
4. Read **James 2:2-6**. The second truth is: we must never let our preferences become prejudices. What does this mean? How have you seen this in your own life?
5. According to **James 2:8** what is the solution to prejudice? Share some ways you can love others by trying to see the world through their eyes.
6. "Mercy triumphs over judgment." (**James 2:13**) is the heart of the third truth. Usually we want mercy for ourselves while giving judgment to others. How would focusing on mercy destroy favoritism?

Next Steps: a) Find your chair and do the 5 daily readings for this week; b) Think of a person who is difficult for you to love and intentionally extend mercy to that person this week. c) As a group make a plan to hold each other accountable for these steps.

Prayer Thought: Read **Psalm 139:13-18**

Father, You created every person and each one we meet is priceless to You. Help us to see the people around us with Your eyes--especially those who are different than we are and difficult for us to love. Give us Your love for them this week, we pray. Amen.