

## Looking In the Mirror Part 8

### “Watch Your Attitude”

James 2:1-13

*God Commands Me in His Word – Love Him with All my Heart, My Soul, My Mind  
- and to Love One Another as Myself*

**Introduction: READ TEXT** James 2:1-13 James begins this thought by identifying who he is calling out. The folks that he was writing to had an attitude problem.

- A. The problem with their attitude was it was an attitude of favoritism, they were playing favorites if someone was rich or someone had power or position then they were treated better than those that did not that was wrong!
  - 1. God does not care if you are rich or poor!
    - God does not care if you tall or short
    - If you have great influence or a servant
  - God does not look upon the flesh but upon the heart.
  - 2. **Before salvation man’s heart is evil continually after salvation man’s heart is permeantly changed and cleansed and covered by the blood of Christ and that is God’s view of man.**
- Does not care what race you are what color your skin is where you live nothing like that matters to God.
  - The Jews in the first century were struggling with that they thought that only the Jews could have a relationship with God and so they shun the gentiles.
    - **The there was a man name Cornelius who was a Gentile that sought a relationship with God, God sent him to Peter and after his encounter with Peter listen to Peter’s proclamation:**

30 Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the [a]ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments, 31 and he \*said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your [b]alms have been remembered before God. 32 Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon the tanner by the sea.' 33 So I sent for you immediately, and you have [c]been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord." 34 Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the man who [d]fears Him and [e]does what is right is welcome to Him. Acts 10:30-35

B. There seem to be a bias among believers, a favoritism, rich folks seem to favor rich folks, poor folks poor folks, white folks white folks, black folks black folks and just about any other categories you can come up with we have our favorites!

➤ **There should be no favoritism in the church!**

1. But let's not confuse favoritism with you not getting your way!
  - What?
  - That's right often times if decisions are made that go the direction of one and not the other then it is often labeled favoritism that is not necessarily true it simply could be the way God is leading but because it was someone else's idea then that doesn't make it favoritism!

= That could be better described as jealousy!

- *My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. James 2:1*

**Transition:** Church there is no room for favoritism in the life of a believer!

A. James illustrates: Two different folks come into the assembly and they are different from each other.

**I. Why would We Make a Distinction? Verse 2-4**

A. Now let's look closely again at these two that have come into the assembly or the church what different about them.

1. Well one is dressed nice and the other is dressed well, not so nice!

- Let me tell you a story: I knew a pastor of a small country church and there was a lady that attended there that wore the same dress every Sunday it's all she had one day to the embarrassment of the pastor his daughter out loud for anybody to hear asked the question why does she wear the same old dress every Sunday?

➤ What a teaching moment other than modesty do think God really cares what you wear?

- That lady was one of the most faithful people I have ever known do you think God said wow I would love to bless her life if she would just dress a little better!

➤ Are we really going to show a different level of love and respect based on the clothes someone has on their back?

2. James says to make such distinctive hases evil motives!

- How can they be evil? Because they are not God Motives!

3. One has a gold ring on their finger the other does not!

- So the assumption is more can be gain from the one with the ring so he is shown favor but I wonder who is more faithful in prayer, who is more faithful in attendance, who is more faithful in service maybe it is the one with the ring but maybe it is not so how can we show favor?

B. The only distinction the scripture allows for is to distinguish others better than ourselves.

1, whether they are rich or poor doesn't matter who are we to determine a man's place based on his wealth or station in life doesn't that belong to God?

- Church here is why we can't make any distinctions!
  - *8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God. 12 For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; 13 for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.*

Romans 8:8-13

Transition: We don't get to pick who we think would be good Christians or good church members I have heard people say well I know we have those folks but they are not really contributors.

- Really?
- 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil [a]motives? James 2:4
- What is our motive for sharing the gospel of Christ?
- Listen God will choose He will choose!

II. God Chooses Whom He Will verse 5

- A. If God bring someone into the church, then to not accept them because they do not have something to offer then we are questioning the call of God!
1. Listen man does not just wake up one day and decide hey I going to follow God today.
  - Listen to these words from Paul to the Romans: **28 And we know that [c]God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.** Romans 8:28-29
- So then if God predestined and God called and God justified and God glorified then who do we think we are to play favorites with God's choice regardless of their stand in this life?
- Rich or poor sick or healthy!

**Transition: Now listen it is a serious thing to sin against God and to question whom God choses is sin!**

### **III. It is Sin to show Partiality 6-13 READ**

- A. These are some very strong words how can **\*\*reject** someone because they do not fit our description.
1. How can we chose to treat some better than others because they have money or even because they don't and you can't gossip about the one who don't.

- B. You see God has declared it sin if God has shown mercy without regard to person then how are we going to pick and choose?
1. What is going to be our criteria:
    - How much money are they going to have to have?
- Do you want to attend a fellowship where everyone is poor or where everyone is rich?
- C. In verse 10 READ James makes the point that to stumble in in one point of the law of God is to be guilty of all of it.
1. It doesn't matter which sin you haven committed you are guilty of all of it!
    - Act like act like someone who has been freed from there sin...
  2. Lately I have noticed there is so much conflict in the world and back biting and disagreement.
    - There is racial division
    - There is social economic division
    - There are divisions over things that make no sense
- Not only have we become a people of favorite people but favorite causes!
- D. I want to take you back to verse 6
- ***But you have dishonored the poor man!***
    1. Is this really how a believer should act two men one dressed nice the other not so much come into the assembly.
      - To the rich man we fall all over having to a good place to sit.
      - To the other we say to him you are beneath me just get out of the way I really don't care if you stay or not.

= You say pastor we don't do such!

2. Really how many of our youth that can contribute nothing that may even come only on Wednesday night into our assembly and then show up finally show up on a Sunday without a parent without any offering maybe a little loud maybe a little disruptive.
  - And we strike an attitude of just keep them out of the way and quiet after all a real potential church member may come this morning and we want to put on our best!
- That church is not our best that is sin!
  3. I hear reference to numbers in attendance all the time but there are some numbers at Covenant that do not get counted.
- 5 days a week we serve 50 plus children in preschool teaching primarily about Jesus if we just add 1 parent each and 2 grandparents each we minister to over 200 people a week plus the Wednesday youth that are off the streets and in the church hearing the Word of God you can add about 25-30 to that.
  - Yea but I like the people who come every Sunday, put something in the offering, are not so needy!
    - But you have dishonored the poor man. James 2:6a

**Transition:** The idea here is not rich verses poor if the situation was reversed it would be no different.

- A. The point is that is in verse 8 That we are to love our neighbor as ourselves!
  1. The point is that there is no amount of money or position or social status that makes puts us in a place to choose instead of God!

**Closing:** Let me close with these thoughts:

- A. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God and our in need of His amazing grace!

- Rich, poor healthy, young old, black white doesn't matter so we are in no position to say to anyone you are below me or you are in the way.
- James is a look in the mirror what do you see:
  - Are you a respecter of person do you look more at what we can gain from who God send our way or how we can serve those that God sends our way?