

Lesson for Midday and Evening Becoming Sessions

Topic: Favoritism Forbidden

Text: James 2:1-13

Lesson Central Idea

Favoritism Is Not *Godly*

Favoritism Is *Worldly*

OPEN IT

- How much money would it take to make you consider yourself rich?
- Why might a person think they are more important than another?
- Where do you see prejudice being practiced?

EXPLORE IT

- What practical example did James use to illustrate how favoritism was practiced in the church? (2:1-4)
- What did God promise to the poor of this world? (2:5)
- What does the church do to the poor person when it shows favoritism toward the rich? (2:6)
- What do the rich people have a history of doing to people in the church? (2:7)
- What is the royal law found in Scripture? (2:8)
- What does practicing favoritism do to a person trying to keep the law? (2:9)
- What does a person have to do to be considered a lawbreaker? (2:10-11)
- By what standards should a person speak and act? (2:12)
- What promise is made to people who judge without mercy? (2:13)
- Why should we be merciful? (2:13)

GET IT

- In what ways have you been a victim of favoritism or prejudice?
- How have you shown favoritism or prejudice toward other people?
- Why do we often treat rich people as more important than poor people?
- How do we use physical appearance, job status, and athletic ability to show favoritism toward people?
- How can we welcome poor people in our church?
- Why does God have a special concern for poor people?
- In what ways can we show genuine love to people of different races, cultures, and economic standing?
- Why is favoritism or prejudice often overlooked as a sin?
- Why would God condemn us as lawbreakers if our sins are only “minor” ones, such as prejudice?

APPLY IT

- From whom can you ask forgiveness this week for showing prejudice toward them?
- How can you change how you look at wealth this week to value it as God does?

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BILLBOARD

Don't Engage in Favoritism!