

## Living by Faith V: James

"No Favoritism"

James 2: 1-13

*Going Beyond* the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on September 10, 2017

### ***Entering In:***

*Share an experience of a time that you were unfairly or unjustly treated by others,  
or a time when you witnessed someone else being treated that way.*

*Why might this question have been much more difficult to answer  
if you were asked to share about a time that you treated someone else unfairly or unjustly?*

1. Some portions of this passage come either directly or indirectly from Jesus' teaching. For each reference (taken from Matthew), write out James' application of it from the passage.

- 5:3: God chose the poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith; to inherit the kingdom
- 5:7, 9:13: judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful
- 9:10–12:
- 18:21–35:
- 19:13–15:
- 22:34–40:

2. What reason(s) does James give as to why believers should not show favoritism?

Why is the notion of glory important to believers regarding to favoritism?

What does the Old Testament say about *showing favoritism*?

- Leviticus 19:15
- Exodus 23:1 – 3
- Deuteronomy 1:16, 17
- Deuteronomy 16:18 – 20

What does the work of Old Testament judges have to do with our relationships to one another in the congregation?

3. What error(s) did the usher make in James' illustration?

Is James saying that all personal preferences are sinful?

What's the difference between having a personal preference and showing favoritism?

Illustrate the difference with a real life example from the life of the church.

In your preferences (e.g. those who you avoid inviting to your home, or who you avoid talking with, etc.), do you recognize something in yourself for which you want to repent and seek God's forgiveness and transforming grace?

In what sense is showing favoritism a form of idolatry?

4. What is the law that gives us freedom? (cf. Romans 8:2; Galatians 5:1)

What makes the law mentioned in verse 8 the *royal law*?

Whose sovereign rule is being addressed here?

How will a believer be justified by the law of freedom?

5. How is *showing favoritism* violating the *royal law*?

How is *showing favoritism* a way of *not showing mercy*? Not showing mercy to whom?

What must you do in order to speak and act like one who is going to be judged by the law that gives freedom (cf. v.8)?

What have you been given in Christ that ought to move you to be merciful to others? In other words, what does "Mercy triumphs over judgment" mean to you?

***Living It Out:***

*Pray that God will bring peace and unity in our church and our homes.  
Pray for God's healing for those who have been hurt by careless words and deeds.*

