



JAMES

“... the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him”



James

- Generally considered to be author: James (Yacob / Jacob): the half-brother of Jesus & leader of the council of Jerusalem
- full of instruction and command – much of which is inspired by the teaching of Jesus (notably the sermon on the mount) and by the wisdom of the book of Proverbs
- A ‘general letter’ written to the ‘12 Tribes’ – to all believers or at least, as some would argue, all Jewish Christians

So Far...

- James 1

- Perseverance Through Trials

- Cross borne, crown worn



- Right Choiceness in Temptation

- Deal with it!



- Lies Deceiving or Light Receiving

- Father of Lights > the father of lies



- Bad Stuff Out, Good Stuff In

- Rubbish out and paid for, gift of Gods Word in



- Reflection Reaction

- Our Bible reflection means nothing without action



- Twisted Tongues or Faultless Faith

- Loose tongues = death, Loving needy and purity = life



Oh Sit Down Next to Me

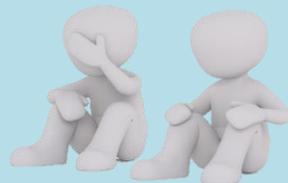
James 2:1-7



James 2

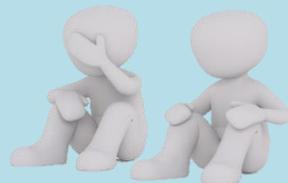
2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism.

² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?



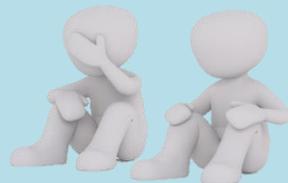
Our Glorious Jesus Christ

- The One who broke the barriers and respected and loved the unloved
 - Touching Lepers (Luke 5:13)
 - Talking to Samaritans (John 4)
 - Honouring Women (John 4)
 - Eating with Tax Collectors (Luke 19)
 - Discipling Fishermen (Luke 5)



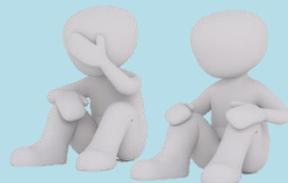
What is Favouritism?

- the practice of giving unfair preferential treatment to one person or group at the expense of another.
- Strongs: **respect of persons, partiality**, the fault of one who when called on to requite or to give judgment has respect to the outward circumstances of men and not to their intrinsic merits, and so prefers, as the more worthy, one who is rich, high-born, or powerful, to another who is destitute of such gifts



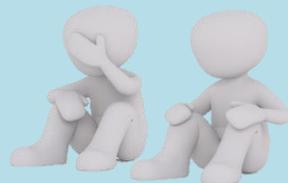
Gold Ring and Fine Clothes

- What are these today?
 - An Armani watch and a designer suit?
 - A Bentley and a Versace bag?
 - Are these things wrong in themselves?
 - There are very many people with a lot of money who are very generous
 - The issue is our assumptions and our actions based on the outward appearance



Filthy Old Clothes

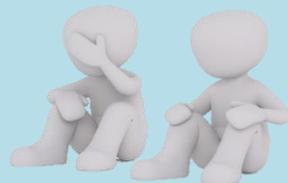
- What are these today?
 - Filthy old clothes!
 - The issue is if we attribute less value to this person based on their outward appearance



Guest of Honour

- We WANT every visitor to be treated as honoured, loved and respected guests
 - This is why we welcome
 - This is why we explain things
 - This is why we try and put people at ease
 - This is why we don't pressure people for money

 - YES WE CAN BE BETTER!

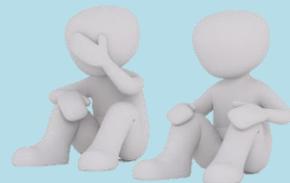


- Oh sit down, Oh sit down, Oh sit down
Sit down next to me
Sit down, down, down, down, down
In sympathy
- Those who feel the breath of sadness
Sit down next to me
Those who find they're touched by madness
Sit down next to me
Those who find themselves ridiculous
Sit down next to me
- In love, in fear, in hate, in tears
In love, in fear, in hate, in tears

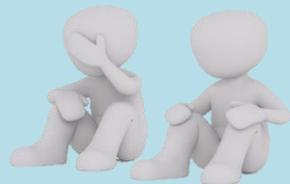


Sit Down Next to Me

- Who can (or can't) sit down next to you?
 - Look around this room and you will see different ages, different colour skin, different affluence, different cultural backgrounds, different fashion sense, different theologies, different ideologies, different political views even different football teams
- Unity is not about being the same but about being different and still sticking together for a cause
- Love is about seeing through our differences and choosing to lift up rather than bring down

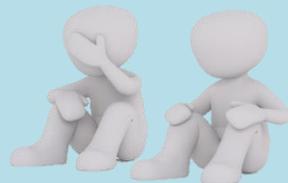


Is God Trying to Make a Point Here?



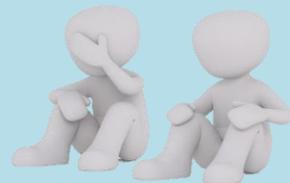
If We Discriminate

- We become judges (Kritai)
- The word from which we derive Criticise
- You can be a healthy and constructive critic, but all too often we are not that kind of critic! We are the finger pointing unhealthy ones – the ones with ‘evil thoughts’ (verse 4)



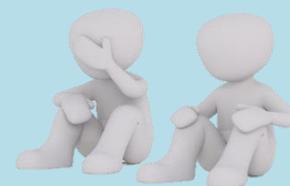
God's Way Round

- We want a Kingdom culture way of seeing people
 - He opposes the proud lifts up the humble (Prov 3:34)
 - He chooses the foolish to shame the wise (1Cor 1:27)
 - He chooses the weak to shame the strong (1 Cor 1:27)
 - The first shall be last and the last shall be first (Matt 20:16)
 - Man looks at the outside, God looks at the heart (1Sam 16:7)
- 'God I look to You... give me vision to see things like You do' (Bethel Music)



James 2

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?



Love God, Love People

- If we want to be a church that loves God and loves People, we need to be prepared to get a little uncomfortable!
 - Don't let the big spenders be the agenda benders
- We need to be ready to invite ANYONE to sit down next to us.
- We cannot expect God to bring people to us if we don't develop a culture where those people will be welcomed, respected, honoured and loved.

