

Don't Play Favorites

James 2:1-13

Key verse: 2:8

1. Read verses 2:1-13. To who was James writing and how does he describe them? What was their economic situation? Where is James prohibiting discrimination specifically (vs 2:2)? Is that the only place he intends us to welcome the poor?
2. How does the world treat the wealthy vs. the poor? Why would first-century believers find James' concept revolutionary? (Deuteronomy 7:12-14) Is James condemning the wealthy and exalting the poor?
3. Whose side is God on? What is the obvious contradiction in Verse 2:5? How does one inherit God's Kingdom? (John 1:12) What is the insult to the poor in Verse 2:6?
4. What is the big difference between the society of the first century and that of today in this context? Do we experience what James describes in Verses 2:6 and 7? Since there was no "social policy" in the first century as there is today, what was James suggesting in Verse 8? (Matthew 7:12, Leviticus 19:15-18)
5. If we show partiality or favoritism based on worldly measures of worth, what do we risk? (Matthew 7:13-14) What is the point of Verse 2:10? Do verses 2:12 and 13 remind you of any of Jesus' teaching? (Matthew 5:21-26) Are Christians under the Law? What was the purpose of the Law? If the Law restrains us out of fear, what does grace inspire in us?