

NOTES & QUESTIONS

DON'T PLAY FAVORITES

JIM NICODEM | SEPTEMBER 30 & OCTOBER 1, 2023

JAMES 2:1-13

Introduction

1. What _____ Is
2. Why _____ Is Foolish
3. How _____ Views Favoritism
4. Where the _____ of Favoritism Comes From

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. The Bible Savvy Reading Schedule takes us to Jeremiah this week. What four resources does Christ Community recommend for gaining an understanding of this book?
2. We're beginning a four-part sermon series in the Epistle of James. Read the intro to James in an NIV Study Bible and list 5 things you learned about the context of this book.
3. Our James series is called "Good with People." Off the top of your head, list 5 people skills for engaging well with others.
4. The title of this sermon is "Don't Play Favorites." Describe a situation in which you were bothered because someone else was shown favoritism. Why did that trouble you?
5. Read James 2:1-4. Based on James' story, how would you define favoritism? (Hint: See I Samuel 16:7.) What is the basis of favoritism in James' story? For what other reasons (especially external) might we either favor or disfavor a person? In what ways (as many as you can think of) do we then demonstrate our favoritism?
6. Read Romans 5:6-8. In light of how God has treated us, how should we treat others? With what type or category of person do you struggle to apply this principle? Why?
7. Read James 2:5-7. Why does James say it is foolish to disfavor a poor person? Give an example of someone you have foolishly disfavored (for whatever reason). Why does James say it is foolish to favor a rich person? Give an example of someone you have foolishly favored (for whatever reason)?
8. Read James 2:8-11. What is the royal law--and why might James have called it royal? How does James make the point that the royal law is not to be taken lightly? (Hint: What other two laws does James cite in the same context?) Have you viewed favoritism as a serious sin? Why or why not?
9. Is it possible to strongly disagree with someone while still treating them with favor? Explain how this could/should be done.
10. Read James 2:12, 13. What is the law that gives freedom by which we will be judged? Since Jesus has already paid for the sins of those who've surrendered to him, in what sense will we still be judged for showing favoritism? (Hint: See the NIV Study Bible footnote for v.12.)
11. What important word is repeated 3X in vv.12, 13? In what ways (more than one answer) does God's mercy toward us motivate us to show a good kind of favor toward others?
12. What is your best takeaway from this sermon? What specific situation in your life could you apply it to?