

Series: Just Do It; Sermon: Love Your Poor Neighbor
delivered by Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor, on September 13, 2020

Bible text explored: James 2:1–13

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” ⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ¹¹For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Every time we show partiality, we are losing sight of the Christ of glory. How can we cultivate a mindset that doesn't lose sight of Him? (2:1)
2. James talks about showing partiality to the rich. How does that show up in the church and in our personal lives today? (2:1-4)
3. We can show partiality to the rich over the poor. What other ways do we show partiality? What characteristics lead us to treat some people well and some people poorly?
4. When we act with partiality, we can treat people whose lives are going well better than we treat people going through rough times. What about the way that God treated us should lead us to do the exact opposite? (2:5)
5. It's easy in our culture to think of yourself as a good person if you keep most of the law. Does James seem to agree? Why? (2:10-11)
6. If the problem is that we have all failed, what's the solution? (2:12-13)
7. How does the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matt 18:21-35) help us understand what James means when he tells us that judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy?
8. James tells us that all followers of Christ will be pronounced innocent because of the death and resurrection of Christ (2:12-13), but he also tells us that we will give an account of our lives to Christ. How should that change the way we live today? What do you think that event will be like?