**Faith Does Week four**

**Faith Sees**

**Study Questions:**

1. Suppose the scene described in verses 2–3 were to happen this week in our church. What do you think would happen? How would we treat the two people differently?
2. In James 2:5–7, what does it say about the poor and the rich? How does this connect with the previous point about favoritism?
3. Do you think James is promoting a “reverse favoritism,” in which we welcome and honor the poor more than the rich?
4. Who are people today that we are more likely to favour and who are we more likely to not see? What is the motivation behind this?
5. What is the “royal law” James mentions in verse 8? How does showing favoritism break that law?
6. According to verses 10–12, how would James respond to someone who said, “I’ve kept seven of the Ten Commandments. That’s a passing grade, right?” c.f. Rom 13:8-10
7. How can the law both be restrictive of our behaviour (vv8-11) and yet give us freedom?
8. Two key words appear in verse 13. Let’s define them. What is judgment? What is mercy?
9. Read Matthew 6:14-15 and compare to 2:13. Why do you think God’s treatment of other affects Gods treatment of us?
10. How does the idea of mercy bring us back to the matter of showing favoritism?
11. Is there a person in your life to whom you need to extend mercy instead of judgment? What is holding you back from doing so?
12. Serving: Can you get involved in a ministry to the poor and homeless in your community? Many such ministries need volunteers

**James 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?

**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?

**8**If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbour as yourself,”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30302a)] you are doing right. **9**But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. **10**For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. **11**For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30305b)] also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

**12**Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, **13**because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

SWEDISH Method

