

FORBIDDEN FAVORITISM – JAMES 2:1-13

February 4, 2024

START TALKING | Get your group thinking.

- 1. What are some ways that people show favoritism towards or judge others?
- 2. Describe a time when you have either been judged or were shown favoritism (whether discriminated against or honored) based solely on outward appearances.

START SHARING | *Get your group engaging with the message.*

- 3. Read James 2:1. In what ways did Pastor Steve say that favoritism mocks the whole life of Jesus? (He gave us four.)
- 4. Read James 2:2-4. Describe how showing favoritism might secularize the church in each of the following areas:
 - a) Leadership qualifications.
 - b) Membership requirements.
 - c) Church discipline.
- 5. Pastor Steve said, "Favoritism blinds the hearts of followers of Jesus." How does favoritism blind our hearts to:
 - a) God's unconditional love? (James 2:5 and Matthew 5:3)
 - b) Common sense? (James 2:6-7)
 - c) Our own hypocrisy? (James 2:8-11)
- 6. In what ways does showing favoritism render the gospel of Jesus worthless?

START LIVING | Get your group applying God's Word to daily life.

- 7. Read James 2:12. Considering what we have learned from this sermon, how are we to live and act?
- 8. Read James 2:13 and Matthew 5:7. How will God judge those who have shown no mercy? How does mercy triumph over judgment?