

TAKEAWAY

LIFE HACKS

Weird words of wisdom

PLAYING FAVOURITES

Sunday 1st March 2020

INTRODUCTION

This week we looked at James's attack on favouritism. Favouritism means favouring; valuing some people over others. Favouritism is *not* disagreeing with someone about their politics, life choices, morality and so on. When we disagree we need to go about it nicely, obviously, but that's not favouritism – it's life. Favouritism is treating someone as more or less valuable as a person based on your own judgements about them.

READ

James 2:1-13

DISCUSS

1. Who is James addressing? Why is this significant?

2. Some Christians in the early church were showing up for worship services covered in nice clothes and jewelry as a way of indicating wealth and status. The culture of the time gave great honour to the rich and very little honour to the poor, and sadly the church reflected this. Why is favouritism particularly inappropriate for "believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ"?

3. Do you see the scenario James describes occurring at Maybridge? If so, how does it manifest itself?

4. How does James demonstrate the intolerability of favouritism in the church?

5. What does this passage tell us about God's concern for the poor? What are the implications for us? Is God "guilty" of playing favourites?

6. How and when do you find yourself engaging in favouritism? How do you battle this tendency?

7. What practical, concrete steps can you/we take to make your church more fully what God intends it to be in these areas?

8. We are told that the royal law is to "Love your neighbour as yourself." How would you define love? Can you think of a time when someone expressed this kind of love to you?

9. James writes, "For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws" What does he mean by this? What impact does he intend this to have on his readers? How does he want them (and us) to change their lives in response?

10. What are the greatest obstacles you face when it comes to being a merciful person? What do you think you need to do to surmount those obstacles?

