

# Gazing in the “Mirror”

- **Day one. Read James 1:22-25 and James 2:1-4**

How do you make it a practice to “gaze” rather than just “glance” into the mirror of God’s word? What kinds of questions does a person who “gazes” ask? With respect to the issue of favoritism, where do you see yourself slipping into this “sin.” Where are your personal propensities toward partiality? Appearance? Stature? Status? Race? Religion? Wealth? Intelligence?

**Pray.** Ask God to help you see areas where you might be showing partiality and what you need to do to overcome this sin.

- **Day Two. Read James 2:5-7**

How would you describe your general attitude toward the poor? Do you have any preconceived ideas about a poor person when you meet one? Do you tend to show partiality to rich people over poor ones? What do you think conversing with a poor person could teach you about faith? Is there something that needs to change in your attitude and/or behavior toward poor people?

**Pray.** Ask God to help you see clearly your own thinking, attitudes and behavior toward the poor, and in light “looking in the mirror,” what needs to change.

- **Day Three. Read Matthew 7:1-2**

Jesus clearly tells us that we are not to judge others. Yet the Bible actually directs us to make judgments of others. For example in confronting a person who is sinning (Galatians 6:1-2) or in judging who is qualified to be an elder (1Timothy 3:1-7). Are there different types of “judging”? How can we tell the difference?

**Pray.** Ask God to help you discern the distinction between judgment that he approves and judgement he condemns.

New Life Lessons  
Jun 4th-5th-6th, 2016  
Pastor Dave Vasquez

## ***Favoritism: The Sin of Kissing Up***

*Being the Church #3*

**James 2:1-13** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. <sup>2</sup> Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. <sup>3</sup> 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," <sup>4</sup> have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my dear brothers: 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? <sup>6</sup> But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? <sup>7</sup> Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

<sup>8</sup> If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. <sup>9</sup> But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

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

### ***1. Identify the Problem (James 2:1)***

**James 2:1** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.

**προσωπολήμπτως: πρόσωπον “face” + λαμβάνω “take”**

**Deuteronomy 10:17** (NIV) <sup>17</sup> For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.

2Chronicles 19:7; Matthew

22:15-17

**Acts 10:34-35** (NIV) <sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

1Peter 1:17 ; Romans 2:11

## 2. Examine the evidence (James 2:2-3)

**James 2:2-3** (NIV) <sup>2</sup> Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. <sup>4</sup> 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..."

Matthew 23:6

**1Samuel 16:7** (NIV) <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

## 3. Determine the cause (James 2:4)

**James 2:4** (NIV) <sup>4</sup> have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

**James 1:6** (KJV) <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.

**Matthew 6:24** (NIV) <sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

**Matthew 15:9** (NIV) <sup>9</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

## 4. Face the inconsistencies (James 2:5-7)

**James 2:5-7** (NIV) <sup>5</sup> Listen, my dear brothers: 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? <sup>6</sup> But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? <sup>7</sup> Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? Luke 4:18

**1Corinthians 1:26-28** (NIV) <sup>26</sup> Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are.

## 5. Confess the sin (James 2:8-11)

**James 2:8-11** (NIV) <sup>8</sup> If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. <sup>9</sup> But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

**Genesis 25:27-28** (NIV) <sup>27</sup> The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. <sup>28</sup> Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Genesis 37:3-4

## 6. Change the behavior (James 2:12-13)

**James 2:12-13** (NIV) <sup>12</sup> Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, <sup>13</sup> because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment! Matthew 7:1-2

**Matthew 5:7** (NIV) <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

**James 1:25** (NIV) <sup>25</sup> But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not

forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed  
in what he does.