



A Heart Like His

Session #5

James 2:1-13

"Lenses of Mercy"

Start

- What is 'favoritism'? What do you think causes it?
- Describe a time when you've seen or personally experienced 'favoritism'. Have you ever been guilty of showing favoritism to someone else? When you've encountered favoritism, how have you dealt with it?
- Based on the things that James has talked about so far in his letter, what kinds of 'vision problems' do we have? (In other words, what are some things that we don't 'see' well?)
- Read James 2:1-13**

Watch

Use the space below to take notes while you watch the video.



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Discuss

- What is 'people blindness', and why is it such a dangerous problem?
- In the video, Brian said, *"The way that you and I see people determines how we think about them, and this ultimately dictates how we treat them."* In what ways do we see this truth play out in our society?

Read 1 Samuel 16:6-7 – *This story recounts God sending Samuel (Israel's most revered judge) to the family of Jesse to select a new king for Israel. Apart from God intervening, Samuel would have totally chosen wrong.*

- If the greatest judge in the history of God's people had problems judging people well, what does that say about our ability to correctly see and judge others?
- In what ways is being 'people-blind' in direct opposition to the nature of God's Kingdom?
- In what ways do we as Christians often 'see' and 'act' like the world around us? Do you think we have bought into the belief that *"Image is everything."*?



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- In our society, what do you think it would look like to "Love your neighbor as yourself."? In what ways is this the opposite of being 'people-blind' and judging others incorrectly? In looking at your own life, how well do you love your neighbor as yourself?

Read James 2:12-13 – *According to James, the remedy for 'people-blindness' is putting on the 'corrective lenses of mercy'. He says that we need to start speaking and acting like those who are being judged under the 'law of freedom'.*

- What does it mean to be judged under the 'law of freedom'? How was this demonstrated in Jesus's parable describing the ungrateful servant?

The only way that you and I will see others correctly is by constantly keeping our eyes on the outrageous mercy that has been extended to us. This means we have to continually put on and see people through the 'corrective lenses' of mercy.

- What are some ways that you can do that this week? Who are some people in your life that you need to look at through lenses of mercy?