

Small Group Discussion 2/20/2022

The Wise Believer, Favoritism, Faith, and Works

– sermon by Dr. John Martin

James 2

Getting Started

- Briefly review what we know about the community James ministered to (their ethnicity, how much they'd have known about the Old Testament, etc.)

Static Questions

- **WHAT IS THE PASSAGE ABOUT?**
 - Note the key details (Who, What, When, Where, Why, etc.)
 - Pay attention to the main Facts of the passage.
- **WHAT DID YOU LEARN?**
 - What does the passage reveal about God? About people?
 - Is there a promise or a command or a warning?
 - What is the main truth of the passage?
 - What lessons do you see?
- **HOW WILL YOU APPLY IT?**
 - How does this passage relate to your life right now?
 - What change in your thinking or behavior is needed to align with the truths in this passage?
 - How should you respond based on what you learned?

Discussion

- Can you recall times when you have witnessed others (or perhaps yourself) show favoritism to those with more wealth or treat the poor unfavorably?
- How does this make one "become a judge with evil motives" (Jas 2:4)?
- Dr. Martin stated that in the times of the OT: "People lived according to the Law because they believed God." Abraham "believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness" (Gen 15:6). What did Abraham believe? How is this belief different or the same as what one who believes in Jesus?
- What does it mean: "mercy triumphs over judgement (Jas 2:13)? Can you give some biblical examples or examples from historical or contemporary life?
- How do we demonstrate our faith? Would others looking at our faith agree that our faith is demonstrated by good works?
- Why is it that a sincere faith is necessarily demonstrated by good works?
- How is it that a "Faith without works is dead" (Jas 2:26)?
- Are good deeds the manifestation of or the necessity of a living faith?
- Reflect on John 13:35 in the light of James 2.