

A photograph of a person from the waist down, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. They are standing behind a light-colored wooden pulpit or podium. In the background, there are rows of wooden pews in a church. The lighting is warm and focused on the speaker.

# **Don't Show Favoritism**

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**James 2:1-9**

# Warning against favoritism

- **James 2:1** My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality.
  - **James 1:26-27** Pure religion..
  - **2 Cor 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

# An example

**James 2:2-4** For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes,<sup>3</sup> and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,”<sup>4</sup> have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

- Don’t presume to know which person will respond to the gospel

# **God lifts up the poor**

**James 2:5-7** Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? <sup>7</sup> Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

— Matt 5:3; Luke 6:28; Gal 2:10, 1 Cor 1:26

# The Royal Law of scripture

**James 2:8-9** If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well;  
⁹ but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

– Lev 19:18; Deut 6:4 Mark 12:28-31

# **Jesus looked at the heart**

- Knew what is within – **John 2:24-25**
- Showed kindness to the unloved
  - **John 4** – woman at the well
  - **Luke 7:36-50** – sinful woman
  - **Luke 10:25-39** – Who is my neighbor?

# Parable of the Sower

- **Luke 8:5-15** Seed sown on every kind of soil
  - Soils represented people's hearts
  - We don't know people's hearts
  - We plant and allow God to give increase



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