

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Sermon Series: James: Work Your Faith

Title: Who's the Favorite?

Speaker: Matt Ewert

Text: James 2:1-13

Date: April 17, 2016

Watch *The Life Challenge* video online at
www.southabbotford.com

Introduction

This week we looked at James 2:1-13, a section in which the author is encouraging his audience around how they should be treating others. His example is of a well-dressed man and a shabbily-dressed man, both entering the same assembly (synagogue) but receiving very different treatment. In your discussion today I want to encourage you to think about ways in which we make the same kind of mistakes in the church today, and then give thought to how we might do better in ensuring that we grow in seeing and treating people in the same way that God does.

Discussion

Reread James 2:1-13 to familiarize yourself again with the passage we studied this weekend.

- 1) James 2, along with numerous other passages in scripture, raises caution around passing judgement on others. Where is the boundary between godly discernment and ungodly judgement?
- 2) ***If fellowship in a church depends on such external things as clothing and economic status, then the church is out of the will of God. - Warren Wiersbe***

***The rich and the poor meet together;
the LORD is the maker of them all. Proverbs 22:2***

In what areas, or over what issues, do you find that Christ followers pass judgement on people/show favoritism/make distinctions between people in a way that does not reflect how God views people? Are there qualities or virtues that you note Christians elevating in status or value that seem to actually be born more out of our culture than out of any biblical teaching?

- 3) Look at James 2:6. Given how poorly it seems that some of the rich were acting towards Christ followers (oppressing them, dragging them into court, slandering the name of Jesus), why do you think the Christians were still giving them preferential treatment in their assembly? What does this tell us about our human nature?
- 4) Read Philippians 2:1-11. In practical terms, describe what it would mean for you to "count others as more significant than yourselves."
- 5) At the end of the sermon, you were encouraged to have this thought before any personal interaction: "The person is of infinite value to God; someone for whom He died." Think of an interaction you have had in the last little while in which this thought might have changed the course of that interaction. How might your thinking, speaking, or action been different in that situation?