

## PRACTICAL FAITH

A Letter from James



The Royal and Liberating Law - James 2:8-13

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## INTRODUCTION

- Continuation of last week's theme of partiality, related particularly to the poor/rich
- James has given practical reasons not to do so (i.e. God's choice of the poor, the oppression by the rich)
  - Now he moves to the Scriptural reasons
- James has given direction what not to do, how not to behave
- So what are we to do? How are we to act toward those that we have a tendency toward partiality and prejudice (of whatever sort)? And why?

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## THE ROYAL LAW

- 8 If you really fulfill the *royal law* according to the Scripture,  
 "You shall love your neighbor *as yourself*," you are doing well.
- 9 But if you show partiality,  
 you *are* committing sin  
 and are *convicted by the law* as transgressors.

•Leviticus 19:9-37  
 •Matthew 22:39  
 •Romans 13:7-10

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## THE WHOLE LAW

10 For whoever keeps the whole law  
but fails in one point has become  
accountable (guilty) for all of it.

11 For he who said, "Do not commit adultery,"  
also said, "Do not murder."  
If you do not commit adultery but do murder,  
you have become a transgressor of the law.

4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## THE LAW OF LIBERTY

12 So *speak* and so *act*  
as those who are to be judged under the *law of liberty*.

13 For judgment is without mercy  
to one who has shown no mercy.

**Mercy triumphs over judgment.**

5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## RESPONSE

- Obedience is *responsive to*, never *meritorious for*, God's grace,
- The manifest evidence of mercy to us is our mercy toward others
- Part of learning to show mercy is realizing everyone is living *a storied life* - not blind fate, not Karma, not equal deserving...
  - We are dealing with complex human beings living in a world where a single day, a turn of events, or deep histories can have devastating consequences
  - People are never merely what they appear, but so much more - so show mercy because of the mercy you have been shown (and not deserved)

6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---