True Faith Works on Our Partiality

WASHED IN THE WORD
BIBLICAL MATURATION THROUGH BIBLICAL SATURATION

To help the listener engage the teaching in a different way and to break from monotony, certain sermons do not contain an outline with blanks. Please feel free to take notes as you listen, here.

Sermon Notes:

1.   Read Deuteronomy 10:17-18. How does James call us to imitate God in this section? How can reflecting on God's impartiality help us live out the teaching in James?

2.   What practical steps can we take to avoid favoritism in our own lives?

   a.   Have you ever had celebrities at church? Have you ever had the poor, homeless, or needy at your church? How did you respond? How did others respond? Did the World or Word guide you in that moment; how do you know?

   b.   Consider whether you have ever had the overlooked in your home or at your table. In modern terms, these may include the orphan and widow, but may also include the mentally ill, the single, those on welfare, and the homeless.

   c.   Look around your church or Christian community; is everyone of one class or social status? Are there others who might not be welcome – intentionally or unintentionally?

3.   Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-8. What title do both Paul & James use for Jesus?

4.   When James says, "do not show partiality," he uses a Greek word which literally means "to receive the face." When is it acceptable to recognize external factors and when does it become inappropriate judging or showing partiality?

5.   "All of us sinners stand on level ground at the foot of the cross." A challenging question to ask of oneself: is that the way my faith comes across, or do I subtly or brazenly, intentionally or accidentally, slight some from access to grace?

6. Is showing respect to authorities (governmental, religious, or other) the same thing as the showing partiality forbidden by James? Why or why not?

7. Do you make an effort to meet new or unfamiliar people at church?

8. What caveat was made for when the elders should correct "outsiders"?