

15. As in the previous study James speaks of the “law of liberty” (v12). What does he say about it and how we should respond to it? (Remember again that he is talking to believers.)

## **Mercy**

16. What is it about being a Christian that should make mercy (cf. v13) so important for us? How have we experienced mercy triumphing over judgment and what response should that therefore produce in us?

## **Pray**

Pray that when people visit St James they would receive a warm welcome, whatever their circumstances. Pray that you might have opportunity and inclination to talk to visitors and strangers.

Pray for our outreach to all our parish and especially to those we might think more difficult, or perhaps less desirable to reach.

Give thanks for his grace to us through the Lord Jesus Christ, the riches of our inheritance and the abundance of His mercy.

*David Phillips  
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# **James**

## **Week 3 : Partiality**



## **Partiality**

1. What sort of things make us more likely to favour one person than another?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does the world around us, and in particular the media, value as successful?

## **Read James 2.1-13**

3. James is writing to believers, how are they described in verse 1? Why should our faith keep us from showing favouritism?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. To what extent might you as an individual, or we as a church, respond differently to a well dressed person visiting church compared to someone who was shabby or perhaps a bit smelly?

5. In what ways does God favour what the world might not? (See for example 1 Cor 1.27, Lk 1.51-53.)

6. Given what James writes why do you think that sometimes in history the church has been more identified with the wealthy or the middle class?

7. In the Victorian era halls and chapels were often built in the poorer parts of parishes where relatively few people attended church. This still happens today. What good reasons can lie behind this? Might there also be bad reasons?

8. James says that it was the rich who were taking the believers to court and prosecuting them (v6-7). We are not told why but what do you think might have been behind this?

9. In what ways are we as believers rich, even if we are poor? (v5)

## **The Royal Law**

10. Why, in verse 8, does James call the commandment in Leviticus 19 verse 18 the royal law?

11. Jesus said that this commandment, along with the one to love the Lord wholeheartedly, sums up the law and prophets. How should such love stop us showing partiality?

12. In what other situations might we need to ensure we don't show partiality? (For examples see Deuteronomy 1.17 and Hebrews 13.2)

13. James, writing to 'those who hold the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ' calls partiality a sin. Is there something about being a Christian that means we, of all people, should not show partiality?

14. What does James mean by saying that breaking one law means breaking every law?