

OVERCOMING FAVORITISM

For the week of June 14, 2020

James 2:1-13

Full message available at highpoint.church/currentseries

Goal:

To overcome favoritism, as we know it, see it, and ask God to help change it in our lives.

RACE, JUSTICE, AND FAITH: A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION (BONUS)

- What questions or points from the discussion that Highpoint hosted this week did you find most helpful or unhelpful? Why?
- What questions or issues would you want to explore further when it comes to the topic of race, justice and faith?
- How does the term “Black Lives Matter” build upon the mantra, “All Live Matter”?

GET GOING

- Describe the last time you were excluded from something. What happened? How did you feel the sting of favoritism? (relationally, socially, systemically, vocationally...)
- Exclusion is not the same as favoritism, but favoritism builds on the principles of exclusion. How would you describe the difference between exclusion and favoritism? What are some biblical principles that stand against favoritism?

GET GROWING

- How did Jesus prove that he showed no partiality, by making specific people matter? Read Matthew 19:13-14; Mark 10:46-52; John 4:4-10.
- How is Jesus’ posture towards highlighting a specific people group (to help others understand the importance of all people), give you a new framework to understand the “black lives matter” language?
- Read James 2:1-4. How do generalizations (i.e. a general statement or concept obtained by inference from specific cases) fuel the sin of favoritism?
- Pastor Ed began his message with this warning: “Don’t you even dare to think [favoritism] does not apply to you. My hope is that today you will leave with an understanding that you do play favorites.” In the quietness of your own heart, finish the following sentence to see if you might believe in generalizations that fuel the sin of favoritism:

- “BLM” people are _____.
 - “All Lives Matter” people are _____.
 - Asian people are _____.
 - Black people are _____.
 - Indigenous people are _____.
 - Latino people are _____.
 - White people are _____.
 - White men are _____.
 - Black men with hoodies in the dark are _____.
 - Those on SNAP (The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) are _____.
 - Immigrants are _____.
 - Undocumented immigrants are _____.
 - Divorced people are _____.
 - Incarcerated people are _____.
- How does Matthew 25:31-46 highlight the truth of James 2:13, that there is a correlation between our standards of mercy and God’s standards of mercy towards us at judgment?

Bonus Challenge

Interact with resources on www.highpoint.church/reconciliation to become more like Jesus, as you grow in your understanding of reconciliation and justice.

Memory Verse

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love” (1 John 4:7-8).

