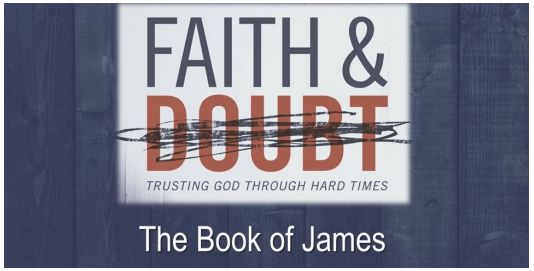

"Playing Favourites"

James 2:1-13

Week of May 31, 2020

I. Favouritism – Our Judgement
What is the command given in James 2:1?

How would you define "favouritism"? Why do we have favourites?

How are the men described in the situation given to us in James 2:2-3?

What treatment is given to the two men?

How does James 2:4 describe the behaviour of the church?

What would you say is the problem with treating people this way?

II. God's Judgement
How does James 1:9-11 compare to James 2:5?

We know that *poverty* refers to wealth and the material things that we have. What else would James be talking about in James 2:5?

What does it mean to be "rich in the faith"? How does 2 Corinthians 8:9 address this?

How does material wealth impact our life of faith?

What is the message of Matthew 19:23 and Matthew 6:24?

What word does James use in James 2:6 to describe how Christians were treating the poor?

In James 2:6-7 what are the three charges that James brings against the rich? Describe each in your own words.

Why do we value and prefer and favour those who are hostile and antagonistic to Jesus? What do we think they do for us?

III. The Law of God
What is the royal law that James quotes in James 2:8? Why do you think it is called the *royal law*?

What is the conclusion drawn in James 2:9 if we show favouritism?

What do you think would be the reaction of someone who is showing favouritism being called a sinner?

What is the message of James 2:10 about sin?

How do we rationalize our behaviour as not being sinful?

What does James 2:12 tell us? What is meant by "the law that gives freedom"?

What does it mean in your life that God does not show favourites?

What do you deserve as a sinner? What have you been given?

How does this impact how we treat others? How does this impact our impartiality?