

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo
Lead Pastor



1224 Hancock Drive
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: www.booneopenbible.com

E-mail: office@booneopenbible.com
pastor@booneopenbible.com

SERMON TITLE

WHEN FAITH IS PARTIAL

SERIES

REAL FAITH COSTS

DATE

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KEY SCRIPTURE

James 2:1-13

SYNOPSIS

You know exactly what it feels like to be picked last — but how often are you the one doing the picking?

HIGHLIGHTS



BIG IDEA

Real faith doesn't play favorites — it hands out the same mercy it's already received.

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism." (James 2:1)

Notes:

THE GOLD RING

Favoritism looks small until you see it acted out: the good seat for one, the floor for another. James doesn't call it a little inconsistent — he calls it becoming "judges with evil thoughts."

"Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in... have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?" (James 2:2-4)

Notes:

GOD'S ECONOMY

God looked at the same two men walking through the door and saw something the usher never did. His economy runs on a completely different currency than ours does.

God looks at the heart.

"Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?" (James 2:5)

Notes:

ONE CHAIN

The royal law — love your neighbor as yourself — isn't one rule among many. Break it anywhere, and like a chain, the whole thing snaps.

Selective obedience is still disobedience. There will be judgment.

"Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it." (James 2:10)

Notes:



MERCY TRIUMPHS

James builds an eleven-verse case against us — the gold ring, the evil thoughts, the broken chain — and then hands us mercy instead of the verdict we deserved.

Real faith doesn't just feel compassion — it shows mercy.

"Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!" (James 2:13)

Notes:

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Who got your mercy today? And who didn't? God already extended His mercy to you. Now go extend it to others.

"Faith that plays favorites isn't smaller faith. It's not faith at all."

"Don't be partial. Be merciful."

Notes:
