



Faith In Real Life - James 2:1-13 Faith #nofilter

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 1)

TRADITIONAL MODEL:

Do you use filters in social media? Which are your favorites and why?

Have you used a filter or edited a pic but said it was nofilter?

Describe a time when you were on the receiving end of favoritism or when you showed favoritism to someone else.

In James 2:1-13 what example does James give of how favoritism is shown? Why do you think this was a problem in this time?

What are some other ways people show favoritism today? In what ways are you becoming aware of how you filter out people?

What are the results of favoritism according to verse 4-6?

What reasoning for not showing favoritism does James give in verse 5? How does that thought challenge you personally?

What is the Royal Law James mentions in 1:8-12 and how does it affect prejudice? What point does James make about the breaking of this law? How does that challenge you personally?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 2)

How would living by *love your neighbor as yourself* change some of your interactions from the past week?

When have you seen mercy triumph over judgment? What questions do you have about that?

Read Lev 19:15. How is the message of the OT law different than James' teaching on favoritism? Why do you think there is a difference?

How would you describe faith in real life from this passage?

CONTEMPLATIVE MODEL:

What are you learning about God from this message?

What are you learning about yourself from the message?

What questions does this message bring up for you?

What is God doing in your heart lately?

What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you?

What is the biggest thing causing you concern these days? (something to pray about)



Leader Guide Faith #nofilter James 2:1-13

Faith In Real Life

Honest, realistic and practical words about faith in a real life world from the Epistle of James.

OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES

James 2:1 My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," 4 **have you not** discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my dear brothers: **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? 6 But you have insulted the poor. **Is it not** the rich who are exploiting you? **Are they not** the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 **Are they not** the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? 8 If you really keep the **royal law** found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as law-breakers. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. 11 For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a law-breaker. 12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

#nofilter one of the most popular hashtags on Instagram. It means the picture you posted was not enhanced in anyway.

Early Christians were filtering out undesirables/ineligibles:

2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in.

- One of the clearest indicators of status was attire
"Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet,"
- They were adjusting seating arrangements based on perceived wealth
3 To the man wearing fine clothes you say, "Here's a good seat for you," but to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet,"

What does James say about our filtering of undesirables?

James 2:1 My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.

- 1) Because of your relationship to others – 2) because of who your Lord is

Faith in real life has no filter that sifts out undesirables or ineligible.

James makes at least 3 points about the practice of filtering out people:



1. **Filtered faith is corrupt**

4 **have you not** discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

2. **Filtered faith is antithetical to the gospel**

5 Listen, my dear brothers: **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? 6 But you have insulted the poor.

3. **Filtered faith is irrational**

6 **Is it not** the rich who are exploiting you? **Are they not** the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 **Are they not** the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

***Filtered faith is sin!**

9 But if you show favoritism, **you sin** and are convicted by the law as law-breakers.

So James says, “don’t do it.”

Why would James feel the need to say this?

Ways we filter out undesirables and ineligible:

1. Knowingly, intentionally and explicitly.
2. Knowingly, intentionally but hypocritically.
3. Unknowingly, unintentionally

What do I do?

8 If you really keep the **royal law** found in Scripture, “**Love your neighbor as yourself,**” you are doing right.

- **The Royal Law informs all others like our constitution.**
- **The Royal Law is a decree from The King.**

“Break one and you’ve broken them all.”

Also true: Keep one and you’ll keep them all.



Who are your ineligible and undesirables?

1. Undesirable: "I really can't stand to be around that person."
2. Ineligible: "There's no way God's grace could that person."

Faith #nofilter uses the *Royal Law Exposure* exclusively:

Faith in real life has no filter

Why would God give us such a strong ability to distinguish?

When James says don't show *favoritism*: 1)face & 2)to take notice of. *Take notice of face.*

James

James 1:27 to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Jesus

Ro 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us.

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the "good news" that Jesus entered into our broken world to rescue us from sin. The good news is that through Christ's redemptive sacrifice on the cross, sinners are pardoned, the undeserving are given grace, and the broken are restored. There is no sin too heinous for God's forgiveness. There is no person so good in-and-of-themselves that they do not require forgiveness. Salvation is a free gift of God to anyone who genuinely acknowledges their brokenness and confesses saving faith in the Son of God. It doesn't take strong faith, just genuine faith in order to be saved.

An example prayer you could pray:

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge I'm broken and a sinner. I believe that Christ died on the cross for sin, and through his resurrection overcame sin and death. I believe in you. I thank you for saving me.

The good news does not end with a confession of faith. New faith can grow into deep faith if cultivated. Let someone at Sunridge know about your new-found faith, and inquire about our new believer's resource: God Time: Your First 31 Days. Follow Christ wholeheartedly by professing your faith publicly through baptism, learning the Bible by attending church regularly and pursuing the unique calling of Jesus in your life!