



11 -WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

WEEK 4

“Justice”

James 1:26-2:9

WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: James 1:26-2:9

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To understand God's heart for the vulnerable, the outcast, and the oppressed

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **James 1:26-27** focuses on "religion." How would you define the word "religion?" How does James define it?

What three things does James say that "true religion" requires of us? Why do you think James chose to list those three?
2. In **James 2:1**, James states that "believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism." How do you think our view of Jesus as "glorious" affects our view of other people?
3. The Old Testament prophets frequently criticized Israel for ignoring and oppressing the vulnerable, especially the poor, the widows, the orphans, and the foreigners among them. As a group, read Ezekiel's prophecy against Jerusalem where He compares the city with Sodom in **Ezekiel 16:49**. How do you feel after reading that? Why do you think He makes that comparison?
4. As you read **James 2:2-6**, do you think James is promoting "reverse favoritism" in which we are supposed to welcome the poor more than the rich? Why or why not?
5. What is the "Royal Law" mentioned in verse 8? Usually, we associate that idea with Jesus' teachings in **Mark 12:30-31**, but we first see this command in **Leviticus 19:18** and **19:33-34**. Read all three of these passages and discuss the similarities and differences between them.
6. Read **James 2:10-12**. According to this passage, how do you think James would respond to someone who says, "I've kept eight of the 10 Commandments. That's a passing grade, right?"
7. What was one thing that resonated with you as you listened to Pastor Doug's message that hasn't been discussed yet?

PRAY

Pray for each other: Pray that God would point out favoritism in each member's life this week.

Pray on your own: Pray that God would remind you of the price He paid to redeem humanity.

ACTION STEPS

Go to **venturamissionary.com** and take advantage of the daily and weekly resources.

This week, prayerfully ask God to show you people or groups of people that you tend to **devalue or look down on**. Pray for those people, and ask God to show you ways to serve them and care for them.

Consider donating to **Project Bicycle Love** at www.bicyclelove.org

NOTES
