

**Big Idea:** *Is your faith real? James asks several diagnostic questions. In chapter 1, he asked “How do you respond to trials and temptations”? and “Are you a doer of God’s word, or only a hearer?”*

*Our passage this morning continues with this question: “How do you treat other people?” The example he gives hits close to home: even in the church, we tend to treat those who are wealthy, successful, and influential better than we treat the poor.*

*But the Bible is clear: God loves and cares for the most vulnerable, and so should we. The Old Testament Law commands it, and Jesus modelled it. Men are made in the image of God, and thus we should extend both our respect and assistance.*

## I. Introduction

Have you experienced injustice or partiality? How did you respond?

How does this issue of “showing partiality” relate to James’ question about *faith*?

## II. The Problem

*James 2:1-4*

Is this problem hypothetical? Why or why not?

*Amos 4:1*

This passage is about *the heart* or more about *politics* more than an issue of *wealth*. How so?

What additional reasons does James give?

*James 2:5-7*

How specifically did Jesus model this principle?

## III. The Solution and Conclusion

*James 2:8-13*

How is verse 8 a summary of the law?

Why is this particular sin so serious?

How do you show favoritism? How is God getting you out of your comfort zone?

How can you bring the Biblical concepts of mercy and justice to your job, school, home, etc.? Can you give an example from your own life?

Why is the Christian **Doctrine of Creation** foundationally so important to this issue?