

**Open in prayer. Read Scripture out loud together. Go through STAR.**

**James 2:1-14 (NLT)**

“My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?

<sup>2</sup> For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes.

<sup>3</sup> If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, “You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor” — well, <sup>4</sup> doesn’t this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?

<sup>5</sup> Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn’t God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren’t they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you dishonor the poor! Isn’t it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Aren’t they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear?

<sup>8</sup> Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>9</sup> But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law.

<sup>10</sup> For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God’s laws. <sup>11</sup> For the same God who said, “You must not commit adultery,” also said, “You must not murder.”

So if you murder someone but do not commit adultery, you have still broken the law.

<sup>12</sup> So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. <sup>13</sup> *There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.*

**As You Read: (STAR)**

Stop – What is at the front of your thoughts today, what is taking your attention? In a prayer of surrender name those things to God.

**Take a Breath –** Become aware of your breathing and as breath in invite the Holy Spirit to make His truth come alive in you and as you exhale release those distractions we named in step 1.

**Accept and Connect to Jesus –** Our desire is to experience the presence of God in such a way that we are changed by our encounters with Him. Re-read the Scripture text silently and ask yourself if any examples come to mind from your life. Then re-read it again and ask yourself if any examples come to mind from the life of Jesus or any other lives from the Bible.

**Respond –** Did anything come to mind as you read? Did you feel like God was putting his finger on anything in your life or encouraging you or giving you a word or picture for someone else? Feel free to share and ask for prayer in this area.

**(Extra devotional questions below)**

- a) What spiritual state is each of us in before we believe in Jesus?  
(ie. Was I righteous in God's eyes before my faith in Jesus? Do my good works alone make me right before God? Etc)
  
- b) What is God's view of humanity? Does He see some people as deserving of mercy and others as undeserving?
  
- c) How did Jesus handle people - rich, poor, different races, different positions in society, different genders, different ages, and people with disabilities?
  
- d) How do we see the Holy Spirit guiding believers in the Bible on how to treat people of different classes in society, genders, races etc?
  
- e) According to vs 13 how serious is this issue of favoritism to God?
  
- f) Application – so what is the state of your heart when it comes to showing favor to others? Do you remember a time when you showed favor to someone based on a certain criteria? Have you ever received special favor because of who you are or what you do etc?
  
- g) Do you feel like God is placing his finger on something in your life in regards to these verse today? If so ask the Holy Spirit to help you deal with whatever is coming up and how it should look in your life!