

## **Bible Study Group Notes**

James 2.1-13

### **THE BIG PICTURE**

James has been describing what mature faith looks like in practice: not merely hearing God's Word, but obeying and displaying it. In chapter 2, he tackles a deeply embedded danger—favouritism. The issue is not rudeness but divided values. Faith in Jesus, the Lord of glory, reshapes how we see people and calls us to a community where mercy outranks comfort and usefulness.

*Read James 2.1-13*

### **STOP SORTING PEOPLE BY COMFORT AND USEFULNESS (2.1-4)**

1. How does James describe Jesus in 2.1, and why does that matter for the issue of partiality?
2. What situation does James imagine in 2.2-3, and what different responses are given?
3. What verdict does James give on this behaviour in 2.4? Why is it so serious?
4. In what subtle ways might similar "sorting" happen in our own church context?

### **LET THE GOSPEL RETRAIN YOUR VALUES (2.5-7)**

5. What does James remind his readers about God's choice of the poor in 2.5?
6. What accusation does James make in 2.6, and why is it so confronting?
7. How does 2.6-7 expose the false security of chasing status or influence?
8. What values of the world are we tempted to import into church life?

### **WORK OUT WHAT IT MEANS TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR (2.8–13)**

9. What does James call the command to “love your neighbour as yourself” (2.8), and why?
  
10. Why does James say that showing partiality is not a minor issue but sin (2.9)?
  
11. How do 2.10-11 challenge the idea of selective or partial obedience?
  
12. What does it mean to “speak and act as those judged under the law of liberty” (2.12)?
  
13. How do you hear both warning and hope in 2.13: “Mercy triumphs over judgment”?

### **REFLECT & APPLY**

14. Who are you naturally drawn toward after church – and who do you tend to overlook? What might that reveal about your instincts?
  
15. What would it look like this week to let mercy, rather than comfort or usefulness, guide one concrete choice?

### **PRAY**

- Thank God that mercy has triumphed over you in Christ.
- Ask Him to retrain your values by the gospel and to make you someone who actively loves your neighbour without partiality.