

# mercy me?

Journey with Jesus:  
Matthew 25:14-26:46

April 24, 2016  
Pastor Bruce French

**W**hat must we do to love our neighbor?

1. To love our neighbor we must be mindful of our  
\_\_\_\_\_. James 2:1-4

*ACTION:* acknowledge your \_\_\_\_\_

2. To love our neighbor we must be mindful of our  
\_\_\_\_\_. James 2:5-7

*ACTION:* acknowledge your \_\_\_\_\_

3. To love our neighbor we must be helpful to the  
least \_\_\_\_\_. James 2:8-11

*ACTION:* acknowledge their \_\_\_\_\_

## TAKE HOME TRUTH

Those \_\_\_\_\_ for mercy should  
\_\_\_\_\_ towards mercy. James 2:12-13

### Today's Core Practice:

**Humility:** I choose to esteem others above myself. (from Philippians 2:3-4)

**Today's Action:** Sign up to be a part of the Cornerstone Community Service Day this coming Saturday, 4/30/16 at Holy Grounds or online.

hand in  
hand  
verse by  
verse

## Deeper Connection Study

According to James, our culture isn't the only entity that deals with preferential treatment. He boldly asserted his position by asking his readers four questions that would jolt them from a practice unbecoming of a Christian. As you notice, his admonitions are quite specific with great practical value for us as we endeavor to put our faith into action.

*Today's Core Practice discussed: Humility*

### Read James 2:1-13

1. Why do people label each other? What are the different ways people are labeled?
2. What does favoritism look like then and now (vv. 1-4)? How is it hurtful and divisive (cf. Rom. 2:11; 12:16; Eph. 4:2-6)?
3. How do you react to people much different than you? How well do you relate to them at church?
4. How does James exhort us regarding the poor in our midst (vv. 2-6)? How should we treat the poor (cf. Prov. 17:5; 21:19; 28:27; 29:7; 31:8-9; Isa. 3:14-15)?
5. How does the royal law guide all relationships (v. 8; cf. Lev. 19:18; Matt. 7:12; 22:39; Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:14)?
6. In what ways do you favor some people more than others? How can you change your attitude and actions the way James challenges us? What people have you treated as strangers at church yet need your kindness and attention?

**Prayer to the point:** Praise God for his equal love and care for us. Ask God to help you improve the way you relate to others. Pray for an awareness, sensitivity, and follow-through in addressing the needs of people around you.

## Who's My Neighbor?



**M**

ost people, especially Christians, if asked would declare that they are not prejudiced. They would more than likely state they like, if not love, everyone. Yet if they were pushed regarding whom they spend their time with, or what type of people they tend to avoid, there would more than enough evidence to convict them of having personal bias. One of the reasons that most people deny the existence of prejudice, or favoritism, is a general blindness towards their flesh and its inclinations. James asserts a dilemma that exists when we have not recognized our prejudices, namely it is impossible to “love our neighbor as ourselves.” He states that if we show favoritism towards a particular person that we have become “judges with evil thoughts” and fail to keep the “royal law.”

So what are we to do and how do we identify our bias? Stay tuned as James walks us through the “law that gives freedom.”