

# WHAT I OWE THEM

NUMBERS 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29 | JAMES 5 | MARK 9:38-50

A very \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus

Revealing, and reveling, in God's \_\_\_\_\_

What do you \_\_\_\_\_ them?

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

The phenomena of ignoring something that is hard to understand, difficult to enact, or challenging to our worldview is not new. We can, as the saying goes, bury our heads in the sand. It might be so immense that we feel powerless, or perhaps someone else's problem. Consider what Jesus says about a *particularly* sort of gruesome practice – cut off hands and feet? Pluck out eyes? Eh. What I hoped to do in the sermon today was to see how, even if this is (and it most certainly is) hyperbole, how this hyperbole serves a greater point that James' letter has also been driving us to. What do I owe to others? Read James 5.

Reflect:

Who is beneath you? Why? What social convention or deep-seated bias exists so that these are less than you? What are you, perhaps, unaware of? (For example, as Pastor, I sometimes forget that people elevate me above themselves or others, because I don't particularly feel all that elevated, but it happens).

What do you owe them? Or, maybe, how have you lived with what you think they owe you?

Respond:

James invites us to pray.

Remember:

“Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us.” Mark 9:39-40