Are We Ready for those who Come and See

Tim King · James 2:1–13

INTRODUCTION

- Are we ready for those who come and see? And that's a really serious question.
- Do we still want them here is the question. And we need to answer that before they arrive because our actions are going to answer it whenever they do.
- The fact that we invited somebody doesn't mean that we've necessarily received them. If we ask people to come into this family, we must make room for them in the life of this family.

1 Stop Ranking People

James 2:1–7; Matthew 9:35–38

- My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.
- James is telling them and us that favoritism is incompatible with faith in Jesus. We can't follow Jesus faithfully while treating some people as less worthy of our care.
- He calls them judges with evil thoughts. They are assigning worth by a standard that wasn't learned from Jesus Christ.
- A person should not have to resemble us to be received warmly into our family.
- Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him?
- A first impression is not a substitute for a real effort to get to know someone.

2 Fulfill the Royal Law: Love Your Neighbor

James 2:8–11; Matthew 22:37–40; Luke 10:29

- If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, you shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well.
- The question for us is whether we will become a neighbor to the person whose need is in front of us.
- Before I return to my familiar circle today, who needs me to initiate a move toward them?
- James makes it clear that showing favoritism, partiality is a sin. We can't tell everyone that they're welcome and then choose which people we are going to care about.
- He's saying that we don't get to choose which of God's commands we're going to obey. God's word is not a buffet of preferences.

3 Mercy Triumphs over Judgment

James 2:12–13; Matthew 5:7; Ephesians 4:32

- So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.
- The same God who tells us to love our neighbor will judge whether our words and our actions show that love.
- If we will not make time for one person we don't know, how are we ready to care for more?
- Being ready to love more people begins with loving the people who are already here.
- We can't ask people to come to see Jesus and then act bothered whenever they need our help getting to know Jesus.
- James just simply reminds us that we can't depend on God's mercy while refusing to show it to other people.

THE CHALLENGE

We have no way of knowing who will come next, but we can decide right now if we're going to take time for them.

MY NOTES