



A New Set of Eyes **JAMES 2:1-13** Message Reflection Guide

Racial prejudice can take root early in human hearts. Children are colorblind until they hear adults making unfounded statements or see them shunning people of a different race. Prejudices soon become well-established weeds with deep taproots. Eradicating them isn't easy.

Laws can help to minimize discrimination in housing and the workplace. But no legislation eliminates prejudice in the heart. Its only sure killer is a long and hard look at what Jesus accomplished when He died on the cross. It's there that we can receive a wisdom *"full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy"* (James. 3:17).

Conversation Starter For what type of event would you buy the best seats or front row seats? Who would you bring with you?

Getting Into The Scriptures Read James 2:1-13

Pastor Jason said: **"Favoritism, bias, and prejudice damages our witness to the world."** How have you observed bias, prejudice etc.. in "Christian circles" and how do you feel that has negatively affected the witness of the church.

We view people through a lens of sin. Did you grow up in an atmosphere where bias/prejudice etc.. was promoted or encouraged? How did that affect your interactions with people different from you? Share a story about a time when you misjudged someone. In what ways were you wrong about the person.

Jesus viewed people through a lens of love. What do you believe is a healthy and scriptural way to respond to racism/prejudice when you see it?

We need to allow the Gospel to correct our vision. How does knowing that God created all mankind as one race, His masterpiece, change the way you see others who are different than you?

Making It Real

When we begin to look at the world through the lens of the Gospel, our thoughts and actions change. When the things we think, say and do, do not please God, we are sinning.

- If the **thoughts** I have about a group of people are not pleasing to God, it is a sin.
- If the **words** I say about a group of people are not pleasing to God, it is a sin.
- If the **actions** I take against a group of people are not pleasing to God, it is a sin.

After reflecting on those statements, are there any sins that you need to repent of and seek God's forgiveness and renewal in how you view and treat people? In what ways do you believe God would like you to act differently?