



Real Faith // Real Action

#4 Dealing With Prejudice

Introduction:

When we think of prejudice, we often think about the big issues that we see or hear about in the media. We often attach an adjective to it - like “racial prejudice” or “religious prejudice” or another and whilst some of these are the “big types” of prejudice, we have probably all experienced it in other forms that may fly under our radar in the moment. Things like chauvinism, nepotism, or favouritism which is what James is talking about in this weeks passage. Be careful not to tune out or think it’s not for you. We all have a latent preference that causes us to make decisions that don’t reflect the character of Jesus. Pray that He shows you what you need to get right before Him.

Play and listen to: Use this song as a launch into prayer that immediately follows <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYZHSmZZ1W8>

Pray: (From song above) - What are you thankful for at the moment?

Read: James 2:1-13

Play video: <https://youtu.be/bGzB3b-8pJM>

Share for 1 min each what your “take away” thought is from this video

Thoughts to share:

- Knowing that prejudice is “pre-judgement of someone causing us to form an opinion without knowing the truth (facts)” - share a brief incident of how you have been the recipient of prejudice.
- Discernment is different from prejudice. Why? (Read Philippians 1:9-10 for insight). How did Jesus use discernment? (see Matthew 16:23). How can we know the difference?
- Most of us would agree with this statement (by unknown writer) *“The rich don’t deserve special treatment; in fact, the poor do. Doesn’t the kingdom of God belong to them?”* Is this a value you truly practice? How does this outwork in your life?
- There are three truths that will help us deal with prejudice in our own hearts...
 - Let God be our guide (see Acts 10:28) - rather than culture or upbringing etc.
 - Let love be your law - James 2:12
 - Let mercy be your message - James 2:13.... How might you apply these in a situation you are facing or have faced recently? Which one did you not put into practice? What would you do differently now?

Consider... what God did for us. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9 // “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” (Philippians 2:5–7 NIV).

Pray ... that God will humble His people, His church in order that in due time He might lift them up.