Faith that Loves  
James 2:1-13

I. THE FAILINGS OF FAVORITISM

v.1 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

vv.2-4 “For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” 4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?”

Why is favoritism so wrong?

1. Contrary to God’s Nature  
vv.5-6a “Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor.”

Matt 5:3 “blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

2. Contrary to Common Sense  
vv.6b-7 “Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?”

3. Contrary to the Great Commandment  
v.8 “If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.”

v.9-11 “But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. 10For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. 11 For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.”

v.12-13a 12 “Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.”
II. THE BEAUTY OF BENEVOLENCE

Matt. 22:36-40 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

v.1 “…our glorious Lord Jesus Christ”