

# James | The Kingdom and the King (James 2.1-7)

## Outline

**Main Idea: God expects his people to extend mercy to others as they have received mercy from him**

1. 2 Hypothetical Situations (v8-9)
  - a. Positive – If you keep the royal law, you are doing well
    - i. Why is it Royal?- the law reflects the kingdom and the king
  - b. The horizontal and vertical are inseparable
    - i. Horizontal: Greatest commandment – Love the lord your God
    - ii. Vertical: 2nd greatest commandment – Love your neighbor
  - c. Negative – If you show partiality, you are committing sin
    - i. It goes against the kingdom, the king and results in prejudice and racism
2. One King, One Kingdom, One law (v10)
  - a. There is no gray area
  - b. The law is connected – we are not just breaking one law, we are breaking the whole law
3. Murder, Adultery, and Partiality (v11)
  - a. 10 Commandments – vertical and horizontal commands
  - b. Take inventory of your heart, preferences, and the result of that
4. The Law of Liberty (v12)
  - a. God is not partial, he judges sin equally
  - b. Jesus has kept the law perfectly for us
  - c. Liberty to see the law as good
  - d. We are still required to obey the law
5. Final Warning (v13)
  - a. Mercy triumphs over judgment
  - b. We must recognize the mercy of Christ to stand in our place
  - c. Speak and act accordingly

### Reflection Questions

1. Consider your past week: have you loved your neighbor as yourself in every area of your life
  - a. Have you loved everyone that you have come into contact with? A love that accurately reflects the royal kingdom and the royalty of the king
2. Consider the mercy of Jesus – His obedience life, sacrificial death and victorious resurrection – Repent, Receive, Praise

# James | The Kingdom and the King (James 2.1-7)

## Discussion Questions

1. Our horizontal relationship with others is inseparable from our vertical relationship with God.
  - a. How do we see this illustrated in this passage?
  - b. How are your interactions with others portraying God and his kingdom accurately or inaccurately?
  
2. James says that if you break one part of God's law, you break the whole law.
  - a. What are the parts of God's law that you treat as a gray area?
  - b. Do you see this as sin? Why or why not?
  - c. How does breaking God's law affect your relationships with others?
  - d. How does it affect your relationship with God?
  
3. James puts the sins of murder, adultery, and partiality all on the same level.
  - a. Why is it surprising that he does this?
  - b. How do people tend to treat partiality, compared to murder or adultery?
  - c. What are preferences you recognize in your own heart that have potential to result in partiality, prejudice or even racism?
  
4. Jesus kept the law perfectly for us, which is why James calls it the law of liberty.
  - a. How do you tend to view the law?
  - b. What does the law being fulfilled give us the liberty to do?
  - c. How does the mercy of Jesus affect the way you live?
  - d. In Christ's merciful sacrifice, we have grace for when we stumble. Is there any sin you need to repent of, either against others or against God?