A Faith That Works Series

“Showing No Favoritism”

James 2:1-4

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Introduction:
A. The Bible is clear about the fact that God does not ________ ________ (Rom. 12:11; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25; Acts 10:34).
B. And because God does not show ________. He doesn’t want His ________ to show favoritism.
C. The problems of ________ and ________ of persons is a problem that has to be faced afresh by every generation.

I. The Spiritual ________: Our Human Tendency to Show Favoritism.
   A. Are you a Christian ________?
   B. It is easy for us walk around with an unpublished list in our minds of those who are ________ and ________.
   C. Both hypothetical visitors are just men with ________; equally ________ by God.
   D. The church must be a place where the things which serve to ________ and ________ people must not be allowed.

II. The Spiritual ________: God has Chosen the ________ to be ________
   A. God’s ways often turn everything ________ ________.
   B. Remember what James said about the rich and poor in chapter 1 (1:9-10).
   C. Paul talked about the same principle in 1 Cor. 1:26-29).
   D. The people of God are not to be guilty of the sin of partiality, because it runs counter to God’s ________ and ________.

III. The Spiritual ________: Keep the ________ ________
   A. Love your ________ as ________
   B. A failure to love others appropriately is just as ________ a sin in God’s sight as ________ and ________.

IV. A Spiritual ________: Mercy ________ Demands Mercy
   A. Mercy ________ over ________.
   B. Imagine how our ________ and ________ would be different if they were controlled and directed by mercy.
   C. Any person who wants to please God must live a life characterized by ________.

Conclusion:
A. We serve an ________ God in a ________ and ________-conscious world.
B. From the movie Seabiscuit: “You don’t just throw away a life because it’s a bit.”
C. Let’s be a church where everyone is ________ and ________ equally.