

Be a Good Neighbor



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
505 West Mulberry Street
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LEARNING TO SEE LIKE JESUS



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One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She’s a sinner!”

Luke 7:36-39 NLT



The Pharisee Judges & Condemns

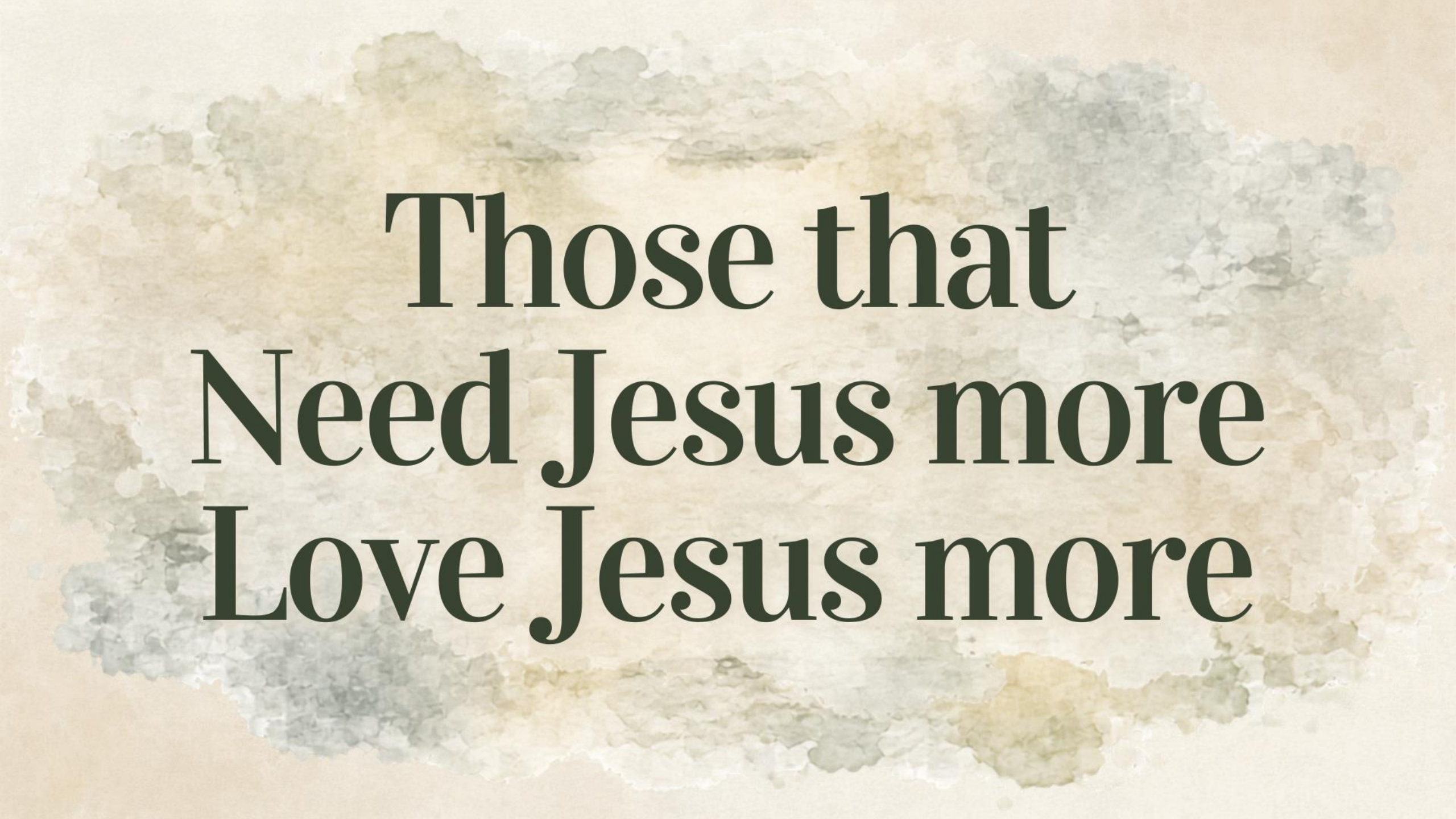
Then Jesus answered his thoughts. “Simon,” he said to the Pharisee, “I have something to say to you.”

“Go ahead, Teacher,” Simon replied.

Then Jesus told him this story: “A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?”

Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt.” – “That’s right,” Jesus said.

Luke 7:40-43 NLT

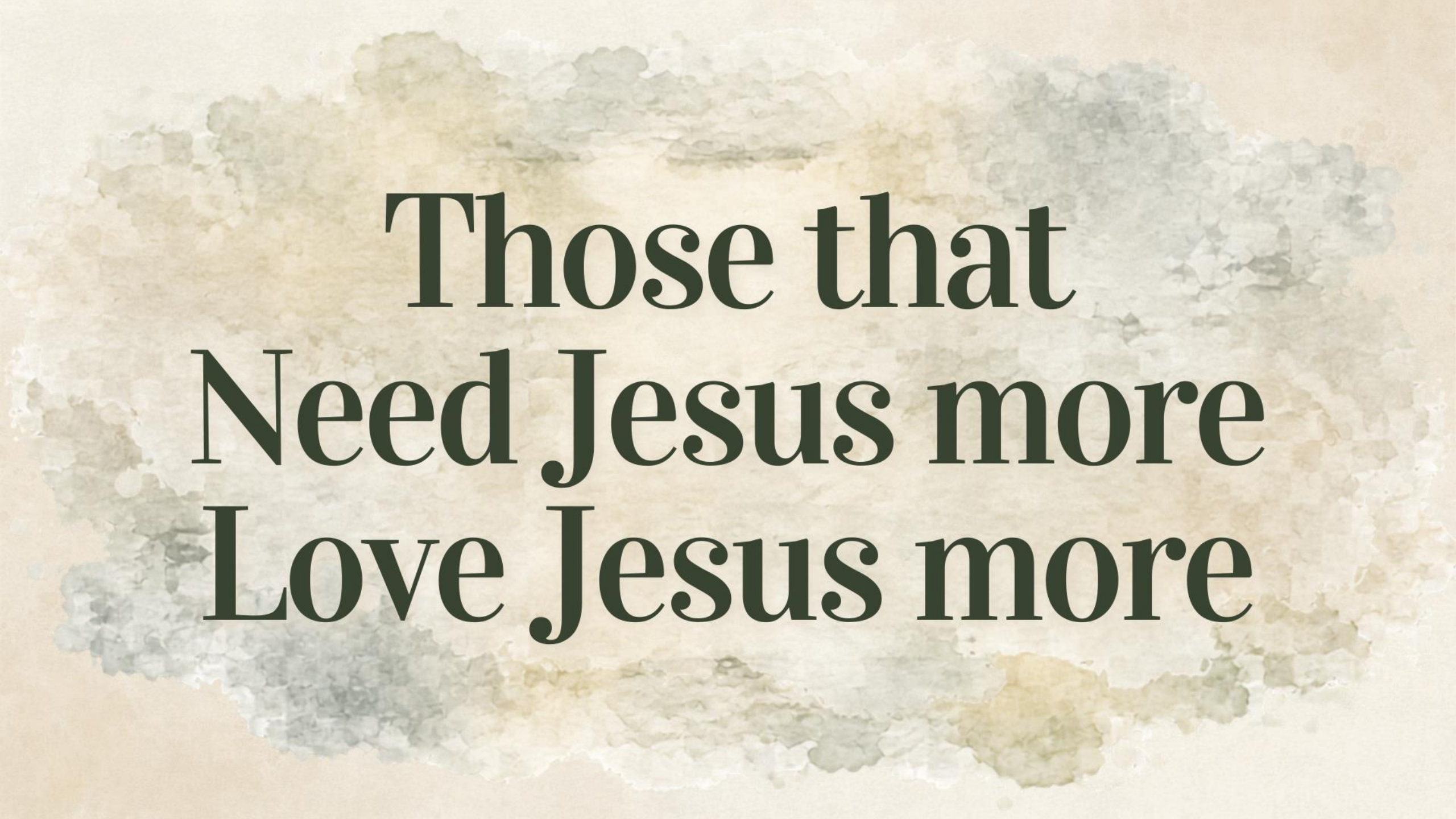


Those that
Need Jesus more
Love Jesus more

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture,
“Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing
right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are
convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever
keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one
point is guilty of breaking all of it.
James 2:8-10 ESV

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER
AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED.
MATTHEW 5:6 ESV**



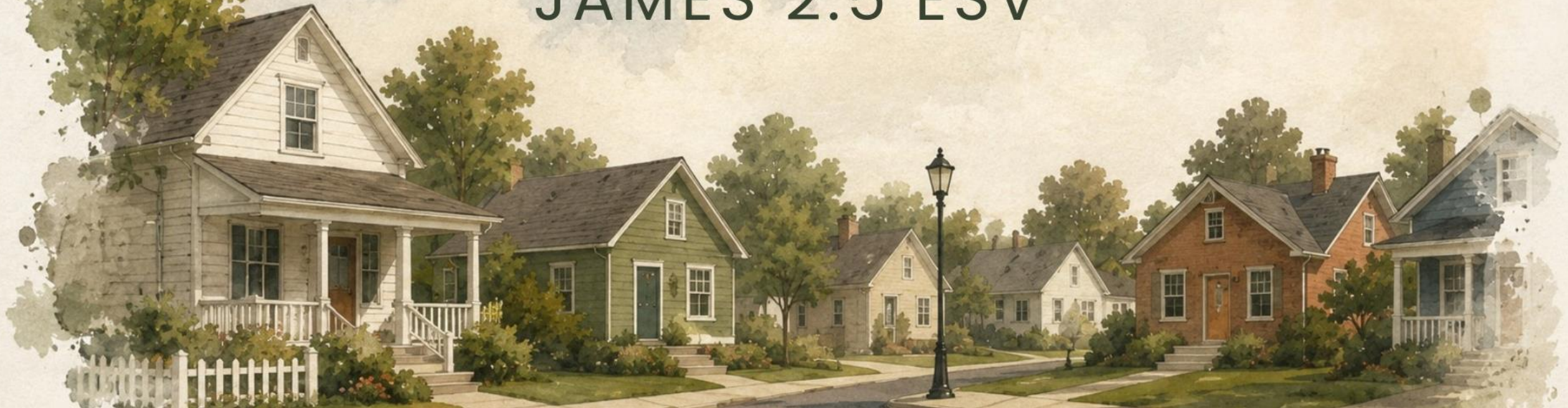


Those that
Need Jesus more
Love Jesus more

**BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN.**
MATTHEW 5:3 ESV



**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?**
JAMES 2:5 ESV



The greatest victories come
Through the most difficult battles

The greatest testimonies come
through trying times.

Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn’t offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.

“I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Luke 7:44-48 NLT

Stop seeing through The eyes of the World

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, BELIEVERS
IN OUR GLORIOUS LORD JESUS CHRIST
MUST NOT SHOW FAVORITISM. SUPPOSE A MAN COMES
INTO YOUR MEETING WEARING A GOLD RING AND FINE
CLOTHES, AND A POOR MAN IN FILTHY OLD CLOTHES
ALSO COMES IN. IF YOU SHOW SPECIAL ATTENTION TO
THE MAN WEARING FINE CLOTHES AND SAY, "HERE'S A
GOOD SEAT FOR YOU," BUT SAY TO THE POOR MAN,
"YOU STAND THERE" OR "SIT ON THE FLOOR BY MY FEET,"
HAVE YOU NOT DISCRIMINATED AMONG YOURSELVES
AND BECOME JUDGES WITH EVIL THOUGHTS?
JAMES 2:1-4 ESV



See like Jesus... See the heart

"BUT THE LORD SAID TO SAMUEL, "DO NOT LOOK ON HIS APPEARANCE OR ON THE HEIGHT OF HIS STATURE, BECAUSE I HAVE REJECTED HIM. FOR THE LORD SEES NOT AS MAN SEES: MAN LOOKS ON THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT THE LORD LOOKS ON THE HEART."

1 SAMUEL 16:7 ESV



Mercy Triumphs over Judgement!

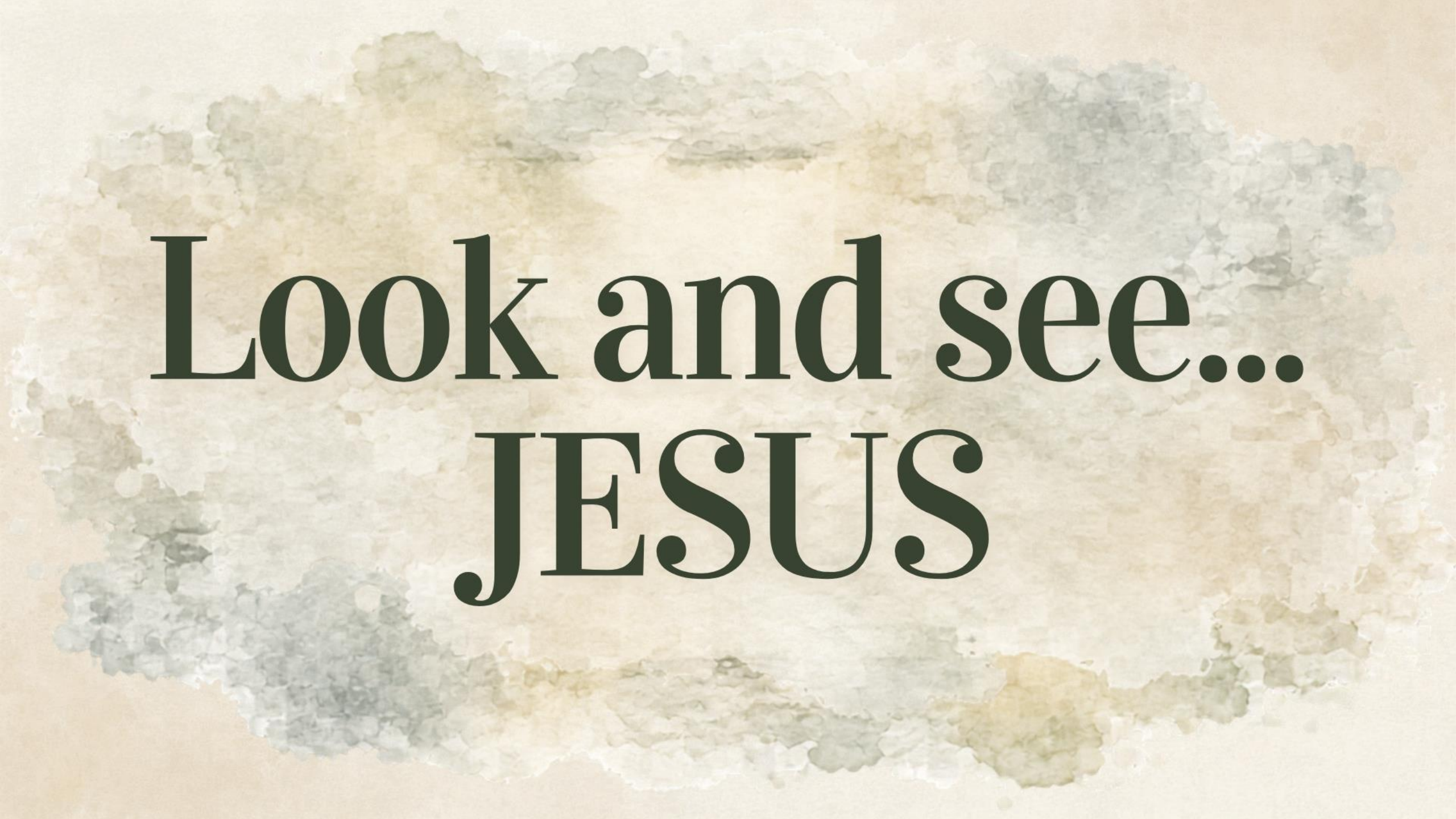
**SPEAK AND ACT AS THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO BE
JUDGED BY THE LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM, BECAUSE
JUDGMENT WITHOUT MERCY WILL BE SHOWN TO
ANYONE WHO HAS NOT BEEN MERCIFUL.
MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT.**

JAMES 2:12-13 ESV



For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:35-40 ESV



Look and see...

JESUS

Discussion Questions

Be a Good
Neighbor

1. Explain a time you “judged a book by its cover” and were surprised when you learned more?
2. What external appearance in a person or neighbor is a struggle for you to see past?
3. Share an example of a time when God worked through something difficult to bring Him glory.
4. How can we, as Christians, live like judgement is from God and not like judgement is ours to give?
5. How does loving the “least of these” correlate with Jesus’ atoning sacrifice on the cross?