



**CALVARY
MEMORIAL
CHURCH**

Closing the Gap: Maturing in Mercy

James 2:1-13 – July 27, 2025

James 2:1-13

[1] My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. [2] 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? [5] Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? [6] But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? [7] Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

[8] If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. [9] But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. [10] For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. [11] For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. [12] So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. [13] For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. (ESV)

Exodus 33:19

[19] And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. (ESV)

Deuteronomy 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (ESV)

Ephesians 6:9 Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him. (ESV)

Matthew 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' [44] But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. [46] For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? [47] And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? [48] You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (ESV)

Introduction: The thrill of closing the gap together!

1. Glory Gazing: our impartial King. (2:1)

Gazing at our King for all provision.

Moses in Exodus 33:19.

We don't complete Him – He completes us. (1:4)

2. The Gap: partiality. (2:2-4)

We are all judges. (Flattery, calculations, eyes on earthly glory, I am god.)

Our own examples.

3. The Deception: partiality. (2:5-7)

Deception: rich in the world = rich in faith.

Reality: poor in the world are often rich in faith.

Deception: partiality will end well.

Reality: pierced by the staff you lean on. (Isaiah 36:6)

4. The Rebellion: partiality. (2:8-11)

Partiality breaks the Royal Law.

Partiality is fueled and fuels self-righteousness.

The root of our rebellion: dissatisfied by the King of Glory.

--- Revelation Demands Response ---

5. Closing the Gap: maturing in mercy. (2:12-13)

Mercy instead of partiality.

All are in equal need of mercy.

God showers mercy with no partiality – let us do the same!

Opportunities for mercy.

Application questions on the back →

Closing the Gap: Maturing in Mercy

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For the following application questions, review your notes from the front.

SUNDAY after church...

Think through the morning and: 1) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you were able to give. 2) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you received. 3) List songs that touched your heart.

MONDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** How have you noticed the Lord “closing the gap” in your life between what you believe and how you are walking out your faith? How have you seen this corporately at Calvary?

TUESDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** Do you think of God as partial or impartial in His treatment of man? Do you sense the weight of glory in “I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy on whom I show mercy.” How does your view of God in this effect how you walk with others?

WEDNESDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** What are subtle or not-so-subtle ways that you judge and show partiality to others? How does wealth impact your perception of others and how you treat them? What is the appeal of partiality? What does this do to your soul? How is it a “gap”?

THURSDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** How is mercy the opposite of partiality? Do you think others need more mercy than yourself? How have you grown in mercy as the Lord has matured you?

FRIDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS:** Who is someone that is typically under your judgement that you could show mercy to? Ask the Lord who and how to do this and be a quick responder. Testify how mercy triumphs over judgement.

SATURDAY – READ & PRAY: Find a good Bible reading plan, a good time, and a good place to commune with God. **WATCH:** How has the Lord shown you Himself and His work? **DISCUSS & BUILD:** How can you enter into the work of building up the Body of Christ tomorrow?

*Let us join the work of Christ in bringing His Light to the world!
Our purpose is **to know...follow...and love Christ!***

