

Delta Group Lesson- March 16th, 2008 “Straight Up — No Class”

Big Idea: Those Who Follow Jesus Do Not Show Favoritism.

James 2:1 clearly states the Big Idea, the theme for the day and the



challenge for this lesson. “My Brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don’t show favoritism.” In our lives we are categorized into a sub-class of society. For some the designation feels good and comfortable. For others it may be a feeling of rejection, a separation from society.

The basic challenge of the day is to personalize James 2:1. Do we show favoritism? Do I show favoritism? In verses 2-4 James gives a present day example of favoritism. This example delivers us a challenge today.

The personal challenge of this lesson is daunting. It causes us to come face to face with something we would rather not have to think about deeply. This passage reveals a

side of us that we would rather ignore. We will find the antidote to favoritism is the Royal Law of Love: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Open it:

What was one of the worst things your brother or sister did to you as a child?

Dig it: Read James 2:1-13

1. What are some of the results of showing favoritism (vs.4, 6,9,13)?
2. Do you think something similar can happen at Heartlands like the scenario mentioned in verses 2-4?
3. From a practical standpoint, why was it foolish for early Christians to favor the rich over the poor (vs. 6-7)?
4. How can the “royal law” (vs.8) guide our treatment of both poor and rich?
5. Is showing favoritism a minor flaw we need to work or a sin we need to clearly confess (vs. 9-11)?

Reflect on it:

1. Two families come to Heartlands next week: One is a new Cardiologist and family who are so excited to find a church like Heartlands and the other is a family that moved to town having lost their jobs and both husband and wife are recovering drug addicts. Honestly, how would you treat them?

2. How should the mercy we received at the cross affect the way we treat others?

Do it:

1. Who are people you tend to avoid? How can you recognize them?