



## ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SERMON  
9-6-15

- I. Back to the book of James: Have you ever read or heard anything more direct in the Bible? This guy just puts it out there – this is the way to live – His writing absolutely convicts us as human beings – Can't hide from seeing ourselves in this writing.
  - a. Again – brother of Jesus, one of the earliest books written after Jesus' life
  - b. Has more words, instructions, echoes of Jesus' teachings than any other NT other than gospels
  - c. Telling us all how to live – not just think
- II. Last Sunday about doing – but Jimmy Carter is probably on a stage too grand for the rest of us.
  - a. No “HUGE” projects for us to create – rather our doing might look differently
- III. So today gets more particular – no favoritism and no partiality and no actions that demonstrate judgment or fake kindness to others
  - a. If they need fed-feed, if they need clothes – clothe, and if you don't do these things
  - b. If you show partiality or favoritism – you are commit sin just like every other sinner around – no hierarchy of sins – break one – break them all- you are a sinner
  - c. Once again a call to quit evaluating sins and get on with the business of being a doer of God's word – starting with ourselves
- IV. James separates poor and rich – but then invokes loving your neighbor as yourself. The Proverbs reading tells us that the rich and poor have in common that the Lord is the maker of us all.
  - a. So – once again – the reminder that we are all one family – no separation between us no matter how many superficial differences we can point out
- V. Bur loving our neighbor as our self turns me to realizing that I start out favoring/loving myself best of all!!
  - a. I mean it. Baby crying for needs to be met. World centers around our pleasures and our choices and our favoritism – to what works best for us.
  - b. Cancel school for sports – for hunting-for church lessons – for play rehearsals – on and on.
  - c. Even when saying you don't love yourself – your focus is still on yourself- poor me – life is unfair- I have no friends- I can't afford to do what others are doing.
- VI. We are so filled with partiality and favoritism – how can we escape?
- VII. Maybe with mercy – mercy for all – for ourselves and for others. For treating ourselves and our neighbor as equal in value.

VIII. Tomorrow is Labor Day – wouldn't that be a kick to honor all laborers as equal in value – and then equal in pay? Giving no one the authority or power to judge one job as of more value than another. To make sure all earn enough for their daily food and shelter.

IX. Taking this no partiality admonition seriously is the work of a lifetime. Thank God for mercy. And

Thanks be to God.