



SERIES: FEBRUARY – James: Faith in Real Life

SPEAKER: DAN COKE

Tuesday, 02/08/2022

Scripture: James 1:16-17

TITLE: With the Eyes of Love

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:16-17, ESV

Why does he get that one? And why can't I have it? If you have spent any time around a group of little kids, you've likely heard this phrase. If you have siblings, you've probably said it a few thousand times yourself. I have three brothers and three sisters. If I had a nickel for every time I asked my parents that question I'd be half as rich as Warren Buffet. Maybe.

Sin has a spiritually disorienting effect on us. We don't always know who to trust. We question others' motives and presume ours to always be fair and just. And worst of all, we doubt and forget who God is. We're all guilty of this. I'm guilty of this at times. Especially, when I'm going through hard times. Especially, when I'm experiencing failure or even when I face the pressure to succeed. I start looking around, comparing myself with others and asking God, "Why does he get that and I have to deal with this?"

James begins this passage by saying, "Do not be deceived..." Sin is deceptive. And my most basic, human, reflex response to pain and stress and fear is to allow my sinful flesh to counsel me and even speak on my behalf. That's why I'm thankful for the Word of God. James gives us a reminder about the character of God.

There are four things that James teaches us about the character of God. One: He is the giver of every good and perfect gift. Two: He is our Father. Three: He is always good and never changes. Four: We are His beloved.

So, do not be deceived. God does not give us evil temptation and it is never God's will that we choose sin. Instead, God loves on us as a loving father and gives us exactly what we need to face and overcome this sinful world. And here's the real key for you and me: until we can see the Father's love for us, we'll never be able to see ourselves or this life accurately. God's love for us is the true light by which we see everything.

If you struggle with gratitude, look at how much the Father loves you. If you struggle with envy and comparisons, look at the Father's love for you. If you're struggling with believing that the Father loves you, look at the bloody cross. Look at what your sin deserves and remember 1 Timothy 1:15 which says, "[The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.](#)" That's right, me,

the foremost or chief of sinners, now loved of the Father because of Jesus Christ. The Father's love gives us the ability to truly see and understand reality. Amen.