



SERIES: JANUARY – BECOMING SPIRITUALLY FIT

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, 02/17/2022

Scripture: James 2:2-4

TITLE: What Do You Value?

How do you judge people? Is it by their clothes? Is it their hair? Is it the political sign on their front lawn? Is it based on how their lawn looks? Is it the kind of car they drive? Or do you even care?

I don't care who you are; we are all guilty of making assumptions based on appearance. We are all guilty of treating people because of superficial things. But is this the way we should act? James has the answer for us today in James 2:2-4 (CSB).

For if someone comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and a poor person dressed in filthy clothes also comes in, if you look with favor on the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Sit here in a good place," and yet you say to the poor person, "Stand over there," or "Sit here on the floor by my footstool," haven't you made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

We all judge and treat people a certain way because of similarities and differences. But when we remember that each person is created by God, it changes how we treat people. All people, regardless of money, status, skin color, political persuasions, or lifestyle, deserve respect.

James says, if you treat someone better because they have wealth or treat someone worse because they're poor, you don't understand the Gospel. You don't understand the heart of God. Stop it.

My family has been as poor as poor can be. We've been on government assistance early on in our marriage. We lived on hand-me-downs. But you know what? Our friends who had great resources treated us with great respect and love. Our pastors didn't care how much money we had or gave. They cared for us all the same.

We, as a ministry, value each person who is part of our Back to the Bible and goTandem family. We don't treat someone better because they give thousands of dollars a year. We don't devalue someone who gives \$10 per month.

One of my favorite parts of being Pastor Nat at Back to the Bible is I get to be with you each day. And when God allows, I spend time with some of you as I travel. I don't care what you give or if you give. If you need pastoral care, I want to be there for you. This is not normal for Christian ministries today, but we take James' words seriously.

You see, how we treat people is a reflection of the heart, so here's my challenge for you today. Examine your heart and ask God for refinement. I don't do this perfectly. I constantly struggle to

love people as God does. I don't want to love my enemies. I want to give extra attention to those who add value to my life in tangible ways. So I need God's help.

So today, discover how you've done this in your life, ask God for help, and begin to treat others as God would have you treat them.

When you do this, you will win the day!