



SERIES: JANUARY – BECOMING SPIRITUALLY FIT

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Saturday, 02/19/2022

Scripture: James 2:6-7

TITLE: Don't Forget

I try not to pay too much attention to celebrities and pop culture. I just find it kind of depressing. But one thing I have observed is that people forget where they come from. I find it the exception and not the norm to remain humble and aware of where people began.

Christians aren't really any different. If we're not careful, we can forget that our salvation and all we have is a gift from God. Listen to what James says about this in James 2:6-7 (CSB).

*Yet you have dishonored the poor. Don't the rich oppress you and drag you into court?
Don't they blaspheme the good name that was invoked over you?*

As we wrap up this week, we're continuing James' discussion on impartiality. God's grace is extended to all people. It discriminates against no one. God loved the world, so He sent Jesus to die for the sins of mankind. But not everyone, in fact, most will reject this scandalous offer of grace.

But for those who do receive it, we must not forget where we came from. We are all born as enemies of God. We are totally depraved. We are hostile in mind and lifestyle towards God. But God, according to Ephesians 2, who is rich in mercy, saves us by grace through faith.

Remember, James is writing to the dispersed Jewish Christians who may have been quite wealthy but now are likely struggling. But like any culture or society, you can always find someone worse off than you. So they've been showing favoritism inside the church. But James reminds them this is ungodly. They are experiencing unfair and hostile treatment from some rich individuals. It's making their lives miserable. In fact, they are attacking the name of Christ.

It's as if they are saying, "You fools. If your Jesus is so great, then why aren't you better off? We don't have Jesus. We have God on our side, and we're rich."

What a poor understanding of God's economy of grace. You may be wealthy in the Kingdom of God. You may be poor. But no matter what your status is, you are rich in Spirit because the Kingdom of heaven is yours. Grace levels the playing field, and we must never forget it.

So here's my challenge for you today: remember. What did God save you from? How has God's grace changed your life? Remember it. Allow that truth to shape how you treat the people around you. God loves you. And He wants that same love to be given to those around you.

When we remember God's grace and share it, we will win the day.