



**SERIES: FEB-MAR FAITH IN REAL LIFE**

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**Scripture: James 2:10-11**

**TITLE: Passing the Test**

What would you see if you showed up in class and began taking a test with a unique quality? If you miss one answer, you fail. If you're like me, you'd say, "that's not fair." But what if that test was on something like heart surgery or brain surgery? We might change our tone.

James reminds us today that there is a test of far greater importance we all will take with the same expectations. Here is what James says in James 2:10-11, CSB.

For whoever keeps the entire law, and yet stumbles at one point, is guilty of breaking it all. For he who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. So if you do not commit adultery, but you murder, you are a lawbreaker.

Before we unpack this, remember, a text without a context is quite dangerous. So in case you missed yesterday, James has been talking about the problem of favoritism. And favoritism isn't just a "them" problem. We all struggle with it. And if we're going to be consistent in our faith, we must be impartial to all people in how we treat and view them.

James is continuing today by reminding the reader that the same God who had the expectation of loving your neighbor also said do not commit adultery and do not murder. What's the point? Sin, regardless of size, is destructive. It's destructive to the person targeted. But ultimately, it's an offense against God. That's why missing this test question is different.

You see, we try to excuse our sin. We try to justify our sin. But we can't. God is the perfect judge who can see right through our excuses. Paul wrote, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23-24).

We all fail the sin test, but Christ makes the grade for us.

So here's my challenge for you today: Thank God for his grace. I don't spend nearly enough time thanking God for his scandalous mercy and grace. When I consider my life before Christ and how much he has done for me, I have no option but to thank Him continually. So thank him today with a joyful heart.

When we have an attitude of gratitude towards our Savior, we will win the day.