



SERIES: FEB-MAR FAITH IN REAL LIFE

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, 02/23/2022

Scripture: James 2:12-13

TITLE: Have Mercy!

I am invincible. Well, at least, I like to be in video games. I love it when you get the star in *Super Mario Bros.* because nothing hurts you. I mean, you can run right into a bad guy, and you just run right through him. In other games, you can put in a code that will do the same thing. I've even seen people use something similar to beat a level in a candy crush game.

Well, saving faith does something quite similar. But because of this, we have a great responsibility. This is what James says about this in James 2:12-13, CSB.

Speak and act as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom. For judgment is without mercy to the one who has not shown mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

James has been speaking in chapter two about the sin of partiality. God shows no favoritism, and neither should we. So here, James is wrapping up this thought by reminding us of the great gift we've received and the responsibility it brings.

James says speak and act as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom. What is that? Those who are far from God trapped by their sin are under the law of bondage. They are slaves to sin and condemned to hell. But those who are saved by the blood of Christ are under the law of freedom.

We have been freed by Christ. But this freedom is not a license to sin. It's a license to follow Christ. James is saying, "Live like a follower of Christ because you've been saved by grace."

Then James reminds us that God has shown us mercy; therefore, we are obligated and privileged to do the same. The unbeliever is a slave to sins of all kinds, including revenge, anger, favoritism, and so on. This verse is not teaching that God will revoke His mercy upon His children. But rather, a loud reminder of who we are in Christ and who the world is apart from Him.

So here's my challenge for you today: show God's mercy and grace to someone who is far from God. The world says to get even with those who hurt you or those people you don't like. God says love those who are your enemies and do good to those who persecute you.

So do so today. When we shower the world with the grace and mercy of God, we will win the day.