

## Living Whole in a Fractured World: A Letter from James "Whole People Overlook No One"

October 23-24, 2021

This provides about one hour of discussion, music and readings. Use the portions you find most helpful.

**Open** with **James 1:26-27** and **Leviticus 19:15**, and briefly review last week's message.

1. Who is **overlooked**? Read **Psalm 68:5**, **Isaiah 1:17** and **John 4:35**.

2. Pure religion is both purity **of action** and purity **of heart**.

- Read **James 1:27**, **1 Samuel 16:7**, **Luke 6:44-45**, and **Romans 12:2**.
- In Why Emotions Matter, Tristen and Jonathan Collins wrote, "... *You might not have control over which **thoughts appear randomly** in your mind, but **you do have control** over where your thought train goes from there... You have control over **the beliefs you choose to embrace** and **the beliefs you challenge**."*
- Read **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**. How do these ideas work, in practical ways? How well do I control my thoughts?
- What are some strategies we can use to live in purity, both in heart and action?
- In **James 1:26-27**, why do you think that James emphasized these three specific actions when defining true "religion?"
- **Watch** a 3-minute excerpt of Francis Chan discussing these verses in James (beginning at 8:12 minutes until 11:47) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnXqAIDM9R8>
  - How might we show "care" for the truly needy?

3. **God's Kingdom comes with a different value system**.

- Read **Luke 14:1-14**. How can I apply Jesus's instruction in my own situation? To do that, what needs to change in me?
- Discuss this Tim Keller quote: "*The gospel is this: We **are more sinful and flawed** in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time **we are more loved and accepted** in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.*"
- Read **Ezekiel 18:23**, **Romans 6:23**, **Romans 3:22-26**, and **1 Timothy 2:1-6**. Who needs the gospel... beyond me?
- Read **2 Corinthians 5:14-21** and N.T. Wright's quote: "***Our task ... is to announce redemption... I believe if we **face the question**, 'if not now, then when?' if we are grasped by this vision, we may also hear the question, 'if not us, then who?' And if the **gospel of Jesus** is not the key to this task, then what is?***"
  - What connections do you notice between these passages and the unreached/overlooked in the world?
- **Challenge:** Ask God to show me who He would have me notice; ask for His wisdom to know the best way that I can help.

**Close** with the song, "**Give Me Your Eyes**," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fM4m3iE0Z24>

If you have a prayer need, ask a friend or two here to pray with you, and to support you in prayer this week.