

# Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 8 September 2024

## PENTECOST 16

### FAVOURITISM FORBIDDEN

#### Opening Prayer (please pray together)

Forgive us for the moments when our faith has been empty, for the times that our works have not matched our words. Help us lean ever more towards your goodness, Amen.

#### Welcome 🙏

Q 1 Did you ever have a favourite toy, child, pet or car? What did you love about them?

#### Music Worship 🎵

Sing 🎤 Make me a channel of your peace

🎵 Amazing Grace

🎹 What a mighty God we serve

#### Read Psalm 146 together

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul.

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.

<sup>4</sup> When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. <sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God. <sup>6</sup> He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them — he remains faithful forever. <sup>7</sup> He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, <sup>8</sup> the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. <sup>10</sup> The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.

#### Word: 📖 James 2.1-13      Favouritism Forbidden

<sup>2</sup> My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. <sup>2</sup> Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. <sup>3</sup> If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” <sup>4</sup> have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup> Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? <sup>7</sup> Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? <sup>8</sup> If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. <sup>9</sup> But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

<sup>11</sup> For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.”

If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

<sup>12</sup> Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,

<sup>13</sup> because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.

Mercy triumphs over judgment.

### **Word: Mark 7.24-37 Jesus Honors a Syrophenician Woman's Faith**

<sup>24</sup> Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. <sup>25</sup> In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup> The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

<sup>28</sup> "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

<sup>29</sup> Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter."

<sup>30</sup> She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

### **Jesus Heals a Deaf and Mute Man**

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

<sup>33</sup> After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup> He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means "Be opened!"). <sup>35</sup> At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

<sup>36</sup> Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. <sup>37</sup> People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

**COMMENTARY - One issue that plagues Christians is passing judgments based upon physical appearances.**

**Q 2 James challenges us and his audience at the time about the dangers of treating people differently. Treating people differently because of their status falls short of Gods standards. Please discuss**

**Q 3 Faith without works is dead. If you have faith but ignore the needs of others are you really a person of faith ?**

**Q 4 Are there people we are excluding in our worship and communities? Discuss**

### **Works**

Who can we welcome to our worship this week?

**Ending Prayer** (please pray together)

Bless our worship this day, leaving this place to live out our faith with works, Amen.

**Shalom Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)**