

James 2:8-13

The Triumph of Mercy



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

The text – James 2:8-13

1. Read James 2:8-13. James draws a contrast between keeping (or fulfilling) the Law in 2:8 and failing to keep (failing to fulfill) the Law in 2:9. What is the contrast that he makes? **Note: when James uses the word “Law” he is talking about the Law given to Moses which Jesus has now fulfilled.**
2. In 2:10-11, James describes what it means to be a law-breaker (a transgressor). What is the main point that he makes?
3. What does James mean by “mercy” in 2:13?

The Scriptures – James 2:8-13 as a portion of the Scriptures

4. Read Leviticus 19:15-18. This is the section of Scripture in which we find the command to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. In the Leviticus passage, what are some of the things we will not do if we love our neighbours?
5. One of the beatitudes (blessing sayings of Jesus) reads: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy” (Matthew 5:7). Discuss what Jesus means.
6. God’s mercy is at the heart of God’s character and kingdom. Read Luke 18:9-14. What do we learn about mercy in this parable?
7. James describes God’s law as the “perfect law of freedom”. Paul also talks about God’s law in this way. Read and discuss Galatians 5:13-15.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to James 2:8-13 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. How has God been merciful to you?
9. How have people displayed mercy to you? How do we display mercy to others?
10. How can we pray for you in the light of this study of James 2:8-13?