**“Matters of the Heart”**

Going deeper in James 2:1-8

**INTRODUCTION**

James has just finished talking about the importance of caring for those who have encountered hard times. He now addresses the attitude that should go with this.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

1 My brothers and sisters, don’t let public opinion influence how you see others. See all people through the lens of our glorious faith in Jesus Christ. 2 For example, if someone comes into your church wearing a gold ring and an expensive suit and a street person wearing filthy rags comes in after him 3 and you pay attention to the man in the suit and you say, “Here’s one of the best seats for you.” and to the poor man, “You can stand in the back or sit here on the floor by my feet.” 4 haven’t you discriminated among yourselves and acted as judges without justice? 5 Listen my beloved brothers and sisters, hasn’t God chosen the poor and downtrodden of the world to be rich in faith? The kingdom is promised to anyone who loves God. 6 Instead you dishonor the poor and downtrodden. Isn’t it the high and mighty that are using the courts to exploit and dishonor you? 7 Aren’t they the ones who are disrespecting and demeaning the glorious name of the One to whom you belong? 8 However you are doing really well by keeping the royal law found in scripture: “Love others as you love yourself.”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. In our day and age what impacts how we “see” other people? What does God look for? How should that impact how believers see people?

2. What are some of the externals that people judge by today?

3. According to verse 5 what is the criteria for entrance into the Kingdom of God?

4. What are ways that you can love others as the Lord has loved you?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Tell the Lord how much you love Him.

\*Thank the Lord for making you part of His kingdom.

\*Ask the Lord to give you the power to see others the way He does and love them the way He does today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

James calls you to see and love others as He does – imperfections and all. Will see others and love others relying on the power of the Holy Spirit this week?