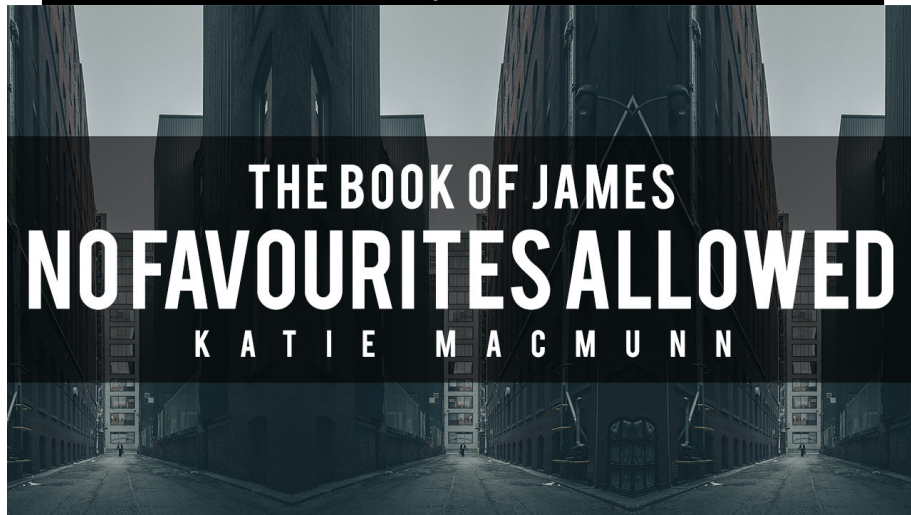


## Oceanside Connect Group Outline

Week of April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016



### Key Scriptures:

#### James 2:1–13 (ESV)

**2** My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. **2** For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, **3** and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” **4** have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

[...]

**8** If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. **9** But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. [...read on to v13]

### Discussion questions from this week’s sermon

James 2 identifies wealth as a potential dividing line at church. **If you think of our society today, what other dividing lines exist?**

**When coming to church, have you ever felt that you have been on the receiving end of favoritism or partiality?**

**If we are honest, do you think you favor some people over others? Why? And in what ways?**

Most of the time when we show favoritism or partiality it is done subconsciously. **In what ways can you overcome these unintentional actions?**

**Looking at Jesus’ life, which parts of His life most display His lack of favoritism towards the people He was with?**

We have been treated as heirs of the kingdom and are called to continue the legacy of Jesus. **How are you continuing His legacy in your life?**

**What is your understanding about what is being said in James 2:5?**

Some dividing lines can be created when people come to church who have visible sin in their lives. **What is the difference between showing mercy and tolerance or condoning something that is sin? How do you think the church should listen to James 2:8-13 and apply it to these people?**

**What does 'mercy triumphs over judgement' (v13) mean in your life?**

Katie quoted: “People need the most love when they are the least loveable.” **With this and verse 2:13 in mind, what does the believer need to live this out well?**

**Do you feel God calling you to any particular actions this week?**