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**Date:** November 10, 2024 – Compassion Sunday

**Message:** Called to Compassion      **Scripture:** James 2:1-13

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## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

James 2:1-13

1. How would you summarize your understanding of what the Bible has to say about wealth and poverty? How is this similar or different from how the world views wealth and poverty?
2. Where do you personally struggle the most to embrace what the Bible says about what God requires of believers towards the poor and vulnerable around us?
3. What does James mean in 2:1-13 when he warns against believers showing favoritism or giving preferential treatment to someone based on their financial status or some other external factor? Do you feel that this is a relevant issue in the Church today? Do you feel that this is a relevant issue in American society today? Why or why not?
4. Read James 2:5-7. What do these verses mean? What do they *not* mean? What is the contrast that James is drawing between the rich and the poor?
5. In what ways does partiality or a failure to show compassion to the poor and vulnerable in word, in thought, or in deed contradict God's heart? How is it incongruent with God's character? How does it dishonor people made in the image of God?
6. Why should it be good news for us that God is impartial (Romans 2:11)?
7. How do acts of compassion and mercy open doors to share your faith that a lack of compassion and mercy might not open? What benefits might come to the *giver* as a result of demonstrating Christlike compassion in those moments?
8. What is a next-step that God has been putting on your heart regarding this topic? What is holding you back from taking that next step?