**This Week’s James Reading Guide**

***UNSHAKEN: The Book of James: Wisdom for Tough Times***

In preparation for Sunday, February, 5th

**James 2:10-13**

This week we looked at how James was addressing favoritism based upon outward appearances and status; next Sunday, February 5th, our focus will be upon James exposing favoritism based upon outward actions.

James’ reminder that, “Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it,” is a humbling reminder of the grace we are all desperately in need of. If James were using imagery, perhaps he would use bowling pins and a window pane. At times we treat obeying God’s commandments as bowling pins. If we knock down most of them we reason that we’ve been successful; in fact we’ve done a better job than someone who only knocked down a couple of pins. James, on the other hand, is comparing our sin more to a window pane. If you have a magnificent window, yet it gets cracked in just one tiny spot the whole structure has been compromised no matter how small the crack.

James warns us against having a hierarchy of sins in which some are more acceptable than others. As long as we are busy comparing ourselves to others and putting them down in order to feel better about ourselves, we fail to receive the gift of God’s grace for what it truly is.

Not only does a failure to grasp the lavish grace we’ve been shown distort our relationship with God, it distorts our relationship with others. If we have a hierarchy of which sins are worse, and if someone has committed one of those against us, there’s a good chance that we will have a tough time forgiving him or her.

**Challenge for the week: In which ways do you need to stop comparing yourself to others so that your eyes will go from them to Jesus?**

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