

Claiming the Promise
Joshua 17:1-6

Review:

1. We must not allow any barriers to prevent us from claiming God's promises
2. We must cling to the promises of God, whether we understand them or not
3. We must remove any barriers that might be preventing others from receiving God's promises

Go further: Read James 2:1-13

1. Against what kind of attitude does James warn us in verse 1?
2. What example does he give of this kind of attitude in verses 2 and 3?
3. In verse 4, what does James say this kind of attitude does to us and the way we think?
4. In verse 5, how does James say God has blessed the poor? Why do you think poverty affects people in this way?
5. In verses 6 and 7, what does James say rich people tend to do? Why do you think they might tend to behave this way?
6. In verse 8, what law does James direct us to follow? How will following this law help us to avoid playing favorites?
7. In verse 9, James clearly states that playing favorites breaks God's law. Why do you think this is the case?
8. According to verse 10, why is James making such a big deal out of showing favoritism?
9. How does verse 12 tell us to speak and act? Why do you think the law of liberty should keep us from favoring only certain people?
10. In verse 13, how does James warn those who are not merciful?
11. What does James say will triumph over judgment? How should this motivate us to show mercy to everyone?

Apply:

1. Are some people treated differently than others in your congregation? If so, why? What can you do about correcting this kind of attitude?
2. How might showing favoritism to some people discourage others from worshipping with your congregation?
3. How can you help your congregation be more welcoming of everyone?