

JAMES
FAITH IN REAL LIFE

OUTLINE OF OUR JAMES SERIES:

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1. Faith in Real Life

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2. Why is this so hard? - Our response to hardships & adversity

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3. Faith in Action - People on the move

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12. Faithful Prayers - Prayer makes a difference in this world

JAMES 2:1-13 (NIV)

Favoritism Forbidden

¹ My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

JAMES 2:1-13 (NIV)

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

JAMES 2:1-13 (NIV)

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

JAMES 2:1-13 (NIV)

¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

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EVEN GROUND

The background of the slide is a photograph of a landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with warm, orange and yellow clouds. In the foreground, on the left side, there is a lone, gnarled tree with sparse foliage, leaning slightly to the right. The ground is covered in dry grass and low-lying plants. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Faith and Favouritism are incompatible

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- We honour those who benefit us

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1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

Faith and Favouritism are incompatible

- We honour those who benefit us
- Reversed status



JAMES

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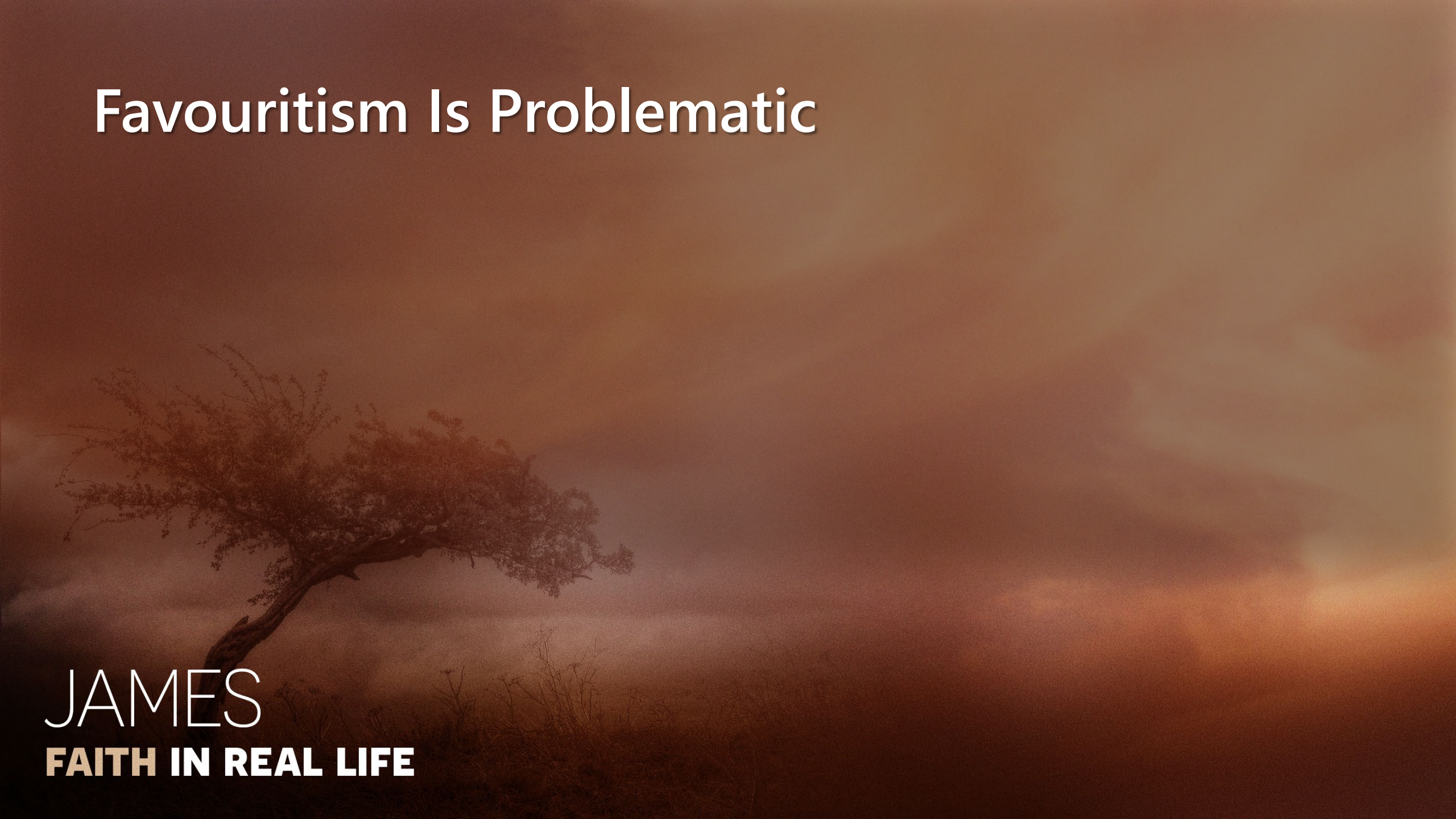
Faith and Favouritism are incompatible

- We honour those who benefit us
- Reversed status
- Transformed standards

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Favouritism Is Problematic



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Favouritism Is Problematic

- Disrespects Humans

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Favouritism Is Problematic

- Disrespects Humans
- Dishonours God

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Favouritism is Problematic

- Jesus

MATTHEW 12:36-37

³⁶ But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.

³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

Favouritism is Problematic

- Jesus
- Paul



Favouritism is Problematic

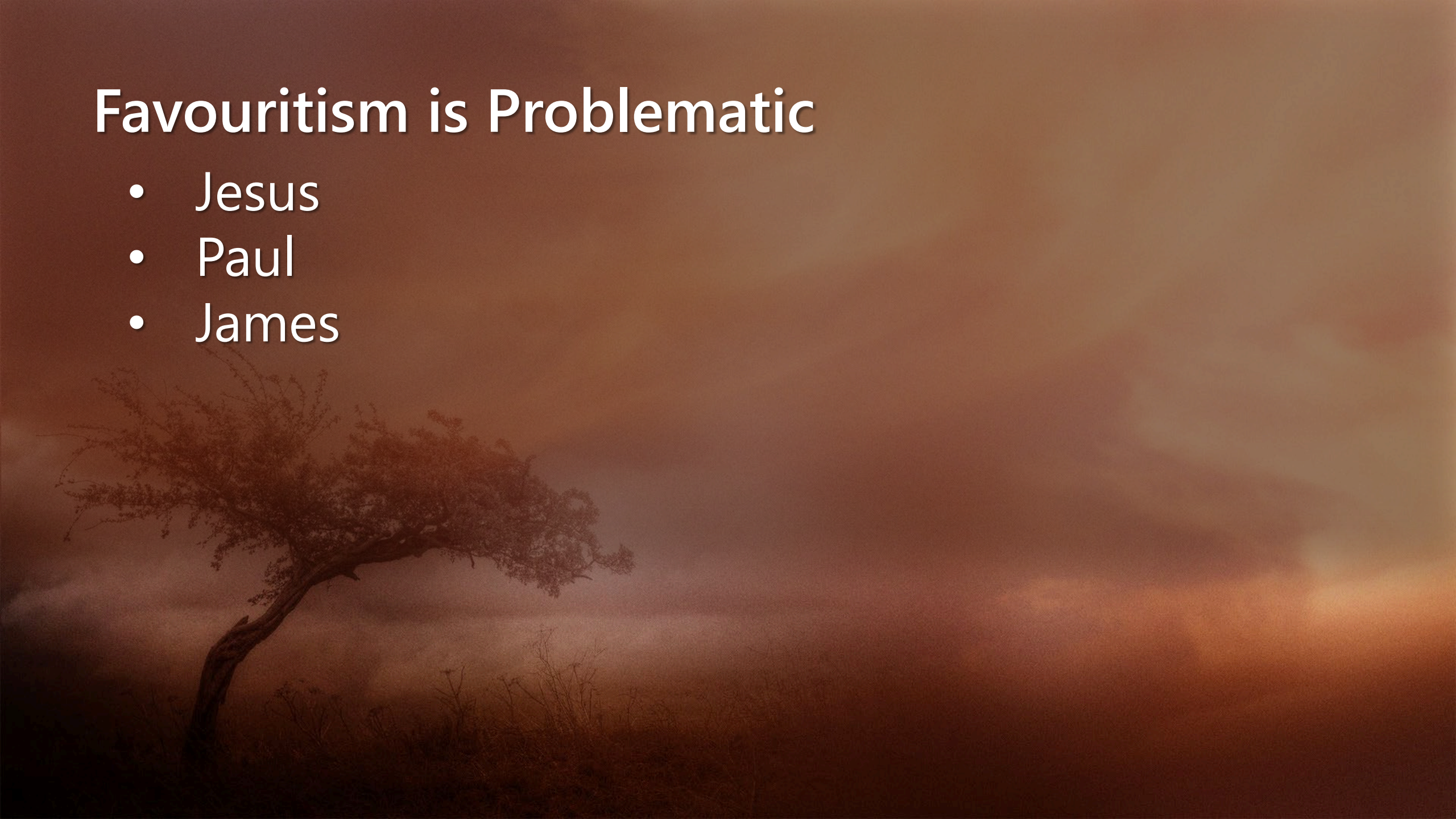
- Paul

ROMANS 2:6-11

⁶ God "will repay each person according to what they have done." ⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; ¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹¹ For God does not show favoritism.

Favouritism is Problematic

- Jesus
- Paul
- James



Faith Exposes the Heart

A lone, gnarled tree stands on a grassy hill in the foreground, its branches reaching out against a vast, dramatic sky. The sky is filled with heavy, layered clouds, with a warm, golden light breaking through on the right side, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall color palette is dominated by warm, earthy tones of brown, orange, and gold.

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Faith Exposes the Heart

- Law

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FAITH IN REAL LIFE

Faith Exposes the Heart

- Law
- Liberty

JAMES

FAITH IN REAL LIFE

Faith Exposes the Heart

- Law
- Liberty
- Judgement

JAMES

FAITH IN REAL LIFE

Faith Exposes the Heart

- Law
- Liberty
- Judgement
- Mercy

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REFLECTIONS:



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1. Have you caught yourself showing favouritism (maybe unintentionally),



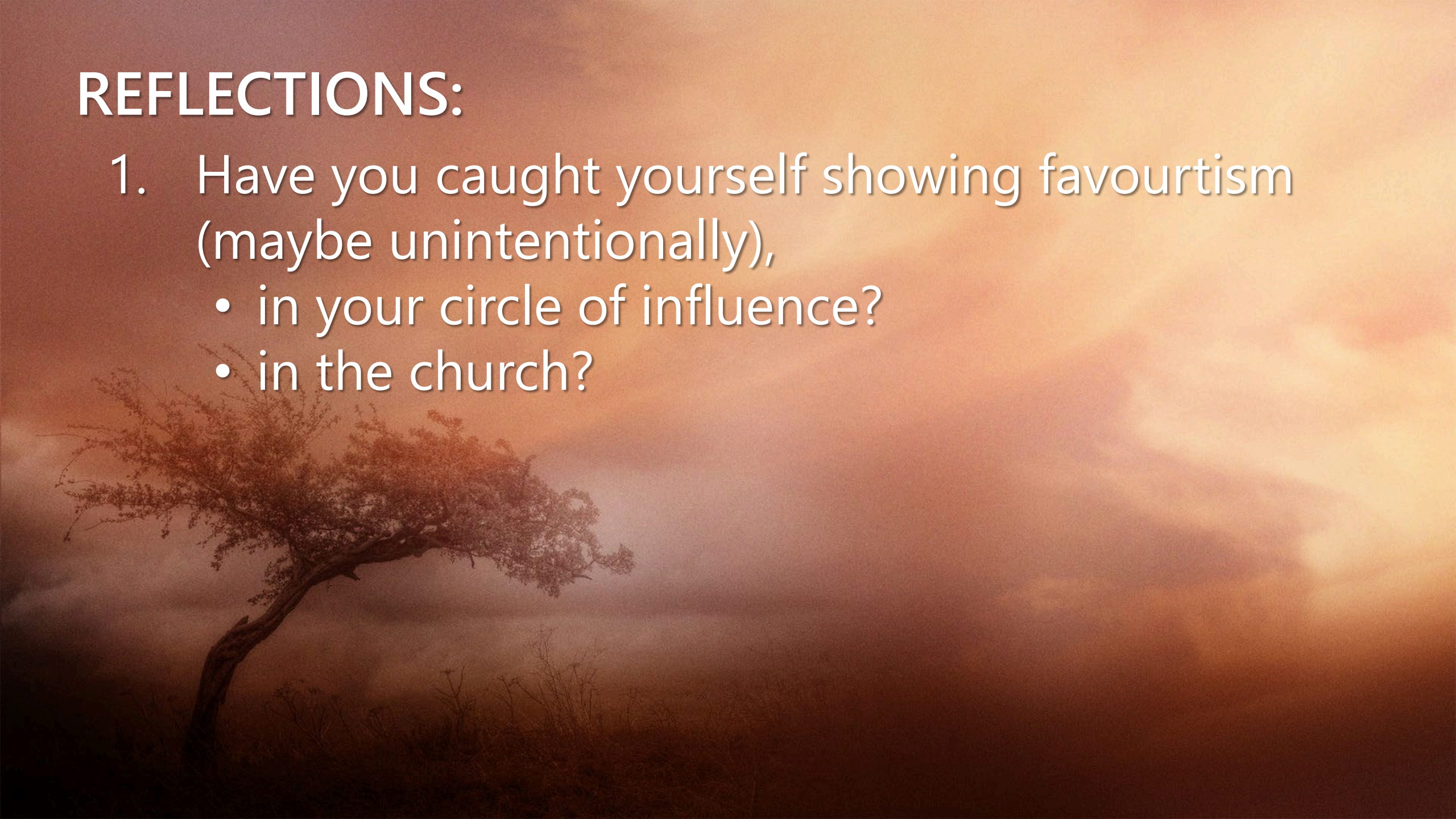
REFLECTIONS:

1. Have you caught yourself showing favouritism (maybe unintentionally),
 - in your circle of influence?



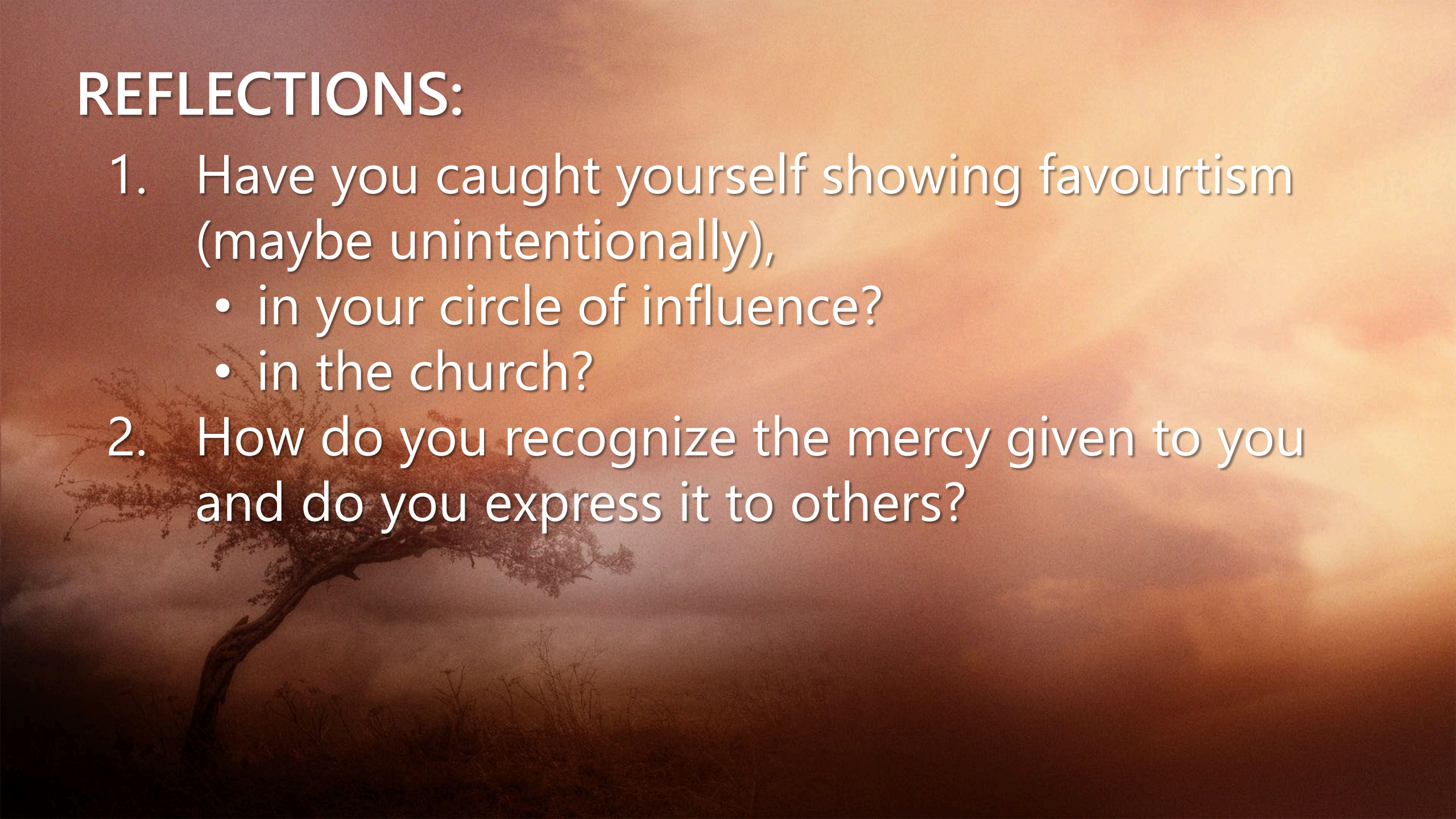
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1. Have you caught yourself showing favouritism (maybe unintentionally),
 - in your circle of influence?
 - in the church?



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 - in your circle of influence?
 - in the church?
2. How do you recognize the mercy given to you and do you express it to others?



REFLECTIONS:

1. Have you caught yourself showing favouritism (maybe unintentionally),
 - in your circle of influence?
 - in the church?
2. How do you recognize the mercy given to you and do you express it to others?
3. How do you embrace humility in your life?



