



RECALIBRATING

A GOSPEL FOR ALL PEOPLE

ACTS

Sept 2014

Some said of both:
"The rule is very specific..."

Fans said of both...
"Than it's a terrible rule..."



Jan 2015

Our interests naturally blur the lines of truth and value.



That blurring is called partiality or favoritism.

Favoritism is to favor and give favors for personal interests rather than on the basis of meaning and merit.

Favoritism is the avoidance of justice for personal reasons

It is at the root of most injustice and the heart of real discrimination

Favoritism is the avoidance of justice for personal reasons

Favoritism is the **Golden Excuse** in every human heart for breaking the **Golden Rule**.

James 2:8-9

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," (Lev. 19:18) you are *doing right*. But if you show *favoritism*, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

1. Favoritism is and must be resisted everywhere

Pride coming out

in unwarranted favor

Crowd

Everywhere

Poor

Rich

Favoritism is...

Clinging to culture and its signals

(race, ethnicity, language, nationality)



Enormously Serious



Pride coming out

Question:
Does that mean we can't do anyone a favor?
Does it mean I can't like things?
Answer:
1. Does it cause you to not give someone that which justice requires?
2. Does it contradict that God shows no favoritism?
(a great thing to talk over in spiritual friendship or with a mentor)

in unwarranted favor

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Favoritism is serious

- A reversal of God's word
- A rejection of God's rule called "idolatry"
- Contrary to the Gospel
- Leads to many sins

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^dS Ac 8:29

10:20

^rAc 15:7-9

10:22 /ver 2

^gAc 11:14

10:23

^hS Ac 1:16 /ver

45; Ac 11:12

10:24 /S Ac 8:40

10:26

^kAc 14:15;

Rev 19:10; 22:8,9

10:27 /ver 24

10:28 ^mJn 4:9;

18:28; Ac 11:3

ⁿS ver 14,15;

Ac 15:8,9

10:30

^oS Jn 20:12

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Acts 10:34-35
 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

"faith is evident"

Acts 10:42-43
 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

No Discrimination

Clear Distinction

2. Gods favor is perfectly principled

God's Perfect Principles are Perfectly Consistent

Has he said any of this before?



Clean and Unclean Stuff
 (Cleanliness and Hypocrisy)
 "Jesus declared all foods clean." (vs. 19)

Mark Chapters 7-9
 ("Peter's Gospel")

Syro-Phoenician Woman "a Greek"
 Healing in the Decapolis mixed population
 Feeding of the 4000 contra 5000
 Don't you get it?
 Don't be like the Pharisees. Feed ALL my sheep. God will make it possible.

Acts 10

3X

John 21

God's favor is on the supremely valuable without favoritism.
 The value of his own glory
 The value of every human being- his image
 The value of real faith
 The value of faithful obedience
 The value of the Savior Jesus and His work

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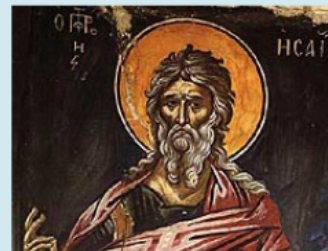
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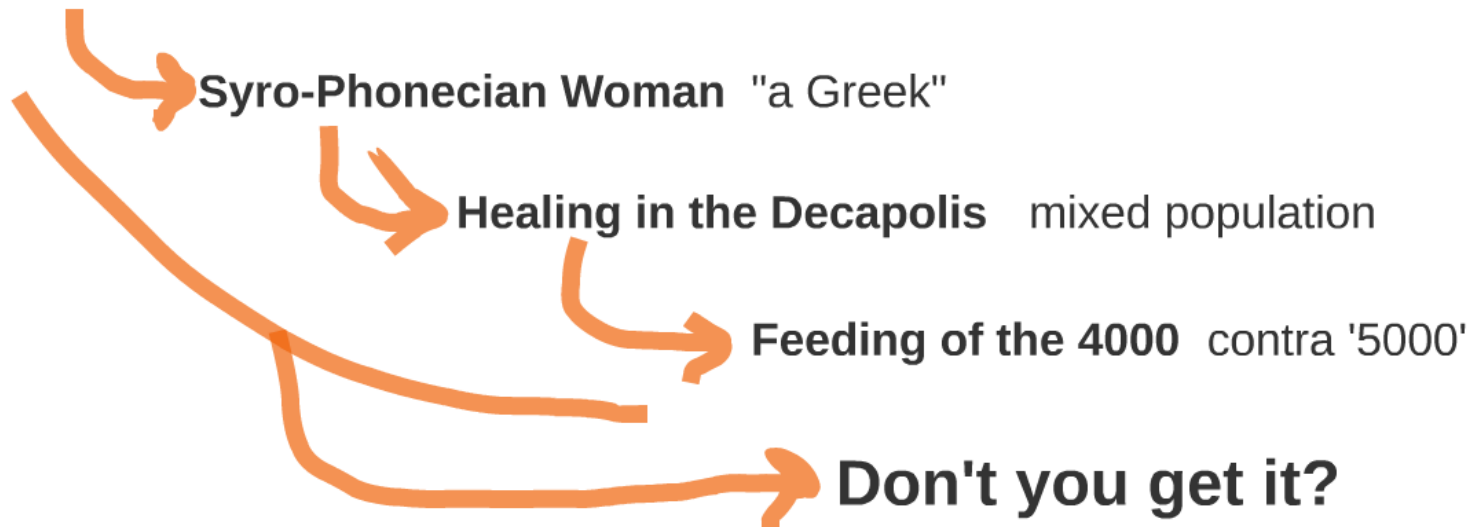
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The value of the Savior Jesus and his work

It takes time to work the Gospel out:
to give up the idolatry of Favoritism

Jewish people in Acts 10:

1. “not I Lord”
2. “God has showed me...”
3. “How true it is...”
4. “I’m astonished”
5. “Who can stop them from being baptized?”

Don't fight it, Replace it.

Favoritism will only yield to a greater identity in and valuing of the favor of Christ.



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