

Drop the Velvet Rope
James 2:1-13 NLT/ February 22, 2026
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DROP THE VELVET ROPE

James 2:1–13 NLT

1. We All Hold the Rope (James 2:1–4)

“How can you claim to have faith... if you favor some people over others?”

Favoritism: Assigning greater worth or honor based on external status rather than God-given dignity.

Velvet Rope Syndrome: Whose presence changes your posture?

2. We Are All Divine Dirt (Genesis 1–2)

Formed from dust.

Breathed on by God.

Made in His image.

Every person is:

- Crafted by God
- Bearing His image
- Crowned with dignity

Who do I struggle to see as “Divine Dirt”?

3. We Have All Broken the Royal Law (James 2:8–11)

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Preferences can become prejudices.

Prejudices can become patterns.

Where have I held the rope?

4. Mercy Drops the Rope (James 2:12–13)

“Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

The cross is where judgment fell so mercy could win.

If God dropped the rope for me...

Where do I need to drop it for someone else?

Application

1. Recognize and repent of partiality.
2. Receive and reflect God’s mercy.

Prayer

Lord, reshape my heart so I see every person through Your mercy.