

**SERMON SERIES:** 52  
**SPEAKER:** Rusty Miller  
**DATE:** January 22nd, 2023

## **Sermon Title:**

“Does God Play Favorites?”

## **Introduction**

This week we are asking the question “does God play favorites?” We will be focusing on how God works in us and through us and reading through different Bible passages to help us answer our question. The past few weeks we have been working through questions like, “Is life random?” Or, “Can God use me for big things?” As we work through these questions, we are expecting that Jesus can do great things in our hearts if we are willing to let Him into our lives.

- What’s one thing you have been enjoying lately, and one thing that you have been not enjoying? (Anything from music, movies, books, hobbies, weather, etc.)

## **Seek the Word**

- Read Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. What do God and Jesus do as shepherds that you could do for those you lead?
- Read Matthew 23:12 and James 4:10. How have you seen this principle of reversal play out in your life?
- What does God’s gift of the Holy Spirit to Christians tell us about how He views people?

## **Go Deeper**

Pick a word that sticks out to you from one of the passages we have just read. Do a brief word study on what the word you picked means. Ask questions like “where else is this word used in the Bible?” and “Why might the author have chose to use this word?” Tools like the free Blue Letter Bible website may be useful.

## **Talk About It**

- What kinds of inequity in this world bother you the most?
- Growing up, were you ever anyone’s favorite? (a parent, coach, teacher, employer) How did that feel?
- Do you perceive yourself as favored by God? In what way?
- What gifts has God given you? How will you use those to share God’s grace this week?

## **Wrap Up**

*Reminder:* Humility opens the door to God’s favor in your life.

*Challenge:* With whom do you need to share the good news of Jesus? If you have seen Him, you share Him. Invite someone to meet up and share what you know, or invite someone to church so they can hear what you hear.