

THE BOOK OF JAMES

FATHWORKS



James 2:1-13

Money and Mercy

'My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. 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. 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," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

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? 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? Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. 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.

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

James 2:-1-13, NIV

Too often we judge a person by their financial wealth and ability to produce. We give fine seats to those who have money and influence and place them above others. Through God, however, this system is turned on it's head. God, having all the riches of the world, chose to come to those who were poor and in need.

Likewise, James exhorts the readers to do the same. Money causes problems and conflict and generally serves as the sign the world uses for worth, even intrinsic worth. With God, however, the sign of worth comes from knowing and being known by our creator and heavenly Father.

Suppose the rich man and the poor man walk in to the church at the same time. How would you respond to each of them?

What are some of the status symbols that you encounter in your daily life? Why are these so tempting and appealing to pursue?

How has God chosen the poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith?

What would it look like if the Gospel were applied to people based on wealth and finances? Where do you see this not in line with the true Gospel?

How does showing favoritism break the law? What makes this an action that does not show glory to God?

How does James tie together the thoughts of favoritism, finances, and mercy?

What areas do you most struggle with showing preferential treatment to people? How does the Gospel serve as the great equalizer for this treatment? How can you apply the Gospel to this situation?

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Day One	James 2:1-13
Day Two	Psalm 5
Day Three	Exodus 5
Day Four	John 6
Day Five	Romans 6
Day Six	Psalm 6
Day Seven	Exodus 6

Prayer Requests