

New Life Community Church Bible Study
October 20, 2020

James 2:1-13 (NASB) The Sin of Partiality

2 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism. **2** For if a man comes into your [a]assembly with a gold ring and dressed in [b]fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, **3** and you [c]pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," **4** have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil [d]motives? **5** Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor [e]of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and [f]personally drag you into [g]court? **7** Do they not blaspheme the fair name [h]by which you have been called?

8 If, however, you are fulfilling the [i]royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. **9** But if you show partiality, you are committing sin *and* are convicted by the [j]law as transgressors. **10** For whoever keeps the whole [k]law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all. **11** For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not commit murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the [l]law. **12** So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by *the* law of liberty. **13** For judgment *will be* merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy [m]triumphs over judgment.

Inductive Bible Study

I. Observation

A. (Who, What, When, Where, Why?)

Who wrote the passage? Who is it written to? Who's mentioned in it?

What is the purpose of the passage?

Are there references to time given?

Are there geographical references given?

Why was the passage written?

B. Key words/Phrases

C. Challenges?/Questions that come to mind?

II. Interpretation (What does the text mean?) - Discussion Questions?

What ways do people show favoritism/partiality? Why?

Is favoritism common in the church?

What does James think of these decisions toward partiality (2:4)? What do these decisions show us about our character?

Why should we refrain from being "judges" (2:4; see John 5:30)? How do you feel when someone judges you? How do you respond?

Who did God choose to be "rich in faith" (2:5)? (Read Luke 6:20-21)

Is James condemning the wealthy and exalting the poor (2:5-7)?
Read Luke (6:24-26)

What is the insult to the poor in Verse 2:6?

Why is this called the royal law (2:8)?

How serious is showing partiality (2:9-11)?

When we are tempted to show partiality what should we remember from verse 13?

What does James mean when he says we will be judged by the law of liberty?
(Matthew 5:17, Deut 11:1, Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10)

How does mercy triumph judgement (2:13)?

III. Application (What does this message mean for me?)

Are there any commands given?

Any Promises?

In light of this passage, what do we need to change individually and/or as a church?