

James

(6) Favoritism

James 2:1-4

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. 3 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," 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? NIV

Another test of our faith...2:1-11

What is the specific location/event addressed by James in 2:1-2?

It's a 'meeting' of the church (believers). Rich and poor man may be members/visitors

And what was obviously happening in these meetings? 2:3-4; see Rom.2:9-11; Eph.6:5-9

The believers were showing favoritism, aka partiality. Absolutely no partiality with God.

What other truth is in contrast to favoritism? Rom.13:7; Eph.6:2; ITim.5:17; IPet.2:13-17

We are to honor others. But not because of their money, social status. Tension here!

What does God's favoritism look like? Phil.2:3-4 Comment?

It should be our goal to have this kind of favoritism! Us on the bottom of the list!

How did God describe what was happening in this early Jewish church? 2:4-7

They were insulting the poor, favoring the rich who were slandering the name of Christ!

What other truth does James remind them of? 2:4; ICor.1:26-29

God frequently chooses the poor, not the mighty/noble. The church had it reversed!

How does the *royal law* (Golden Rule) apply to this favoritism issue? 2:8-11

If you show favoritism you are judged by this law! Guilty of this, guilty of all.

How to triumph over this judgment...2:11-13

How did Jesus teach the same thing as 2:8? Mt.22:37-40

On these (2) commandments hang all the Commandments of God! No favoritism.

What fundamental lie is being addressed in 2:10-11? Gal.3:10-13; Mt.5:43-48

The lie that by not breaking 'most' of the laws you gain 'credit'. But break 1 = break all!

How should believers speak and act? 2:12 What is the *law that gives freedom*?

Knowing we're free of condemnation, free to obey. Law of liberty = Gospel! Free in Him!

And what does an unbeliever (unmerciful) have to look forward to? 2:13a

The unbeliever, the one who does not obey the law of liberty, will be judged without mercy.

And what does the believer have to look forward to? 2:13b Rom.8:1

God's mercy! And His mercy triumphs over His judgment! No condemnation in Christ!

What's the clear application of this truth?

To unbelievers: Repent! To believers: Live a forgiving, gracious, merciful life!!

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