

JAMES

Lesson 12: Verse by Verse Exposition of James 2:1-9

31 January 2020

1-2 Treat everyone in your assembly with the same respect regardless of how they are dressed or what you presume about their financial status. Money (or lack of money) should not dictate who you choose to respect.

Vs 3 Don't be partial to people with money and power. Everyone in the church assembly should have equal privileges and opportunities to serve and minister.

Vs 4 If you treat people with partiality (bias, preference), that is your own shortcoming; you didn't learn it from the Bible. You will end up misjudging people; you don't know a person's true circumstances. The poor man may have very honorable reasons for his current situation. The rich man may be a thief, etc. An impartial approach to all visitors is the godliest action.

The apostle Paul taught the same principles:

Romans 12:16 Don't try to impress people with your success, salary, property, etc. It's all borrowed from God (1 Cor 4:7). Humble yourself and enjoy fellowship with brethren who don't have the things that you have.

2 Corinthians 10:7 Don't judge by outward appearance.

Vs 5 Poor people tend to be richer in faith because they are more dependent upon God. As God provides for their daily needs, they are instantly thankful for everything they receive. The poor are heirs of the kingdom because they are more likely to humbly listen to the Christian witness at their door and receive the Lord's salvation.

Job 21:7-15 The rich tend to disregard God because they have everything they need or want.

Prov. 28:11 The rich man becomes conceited and thinks he knows better than God. The poor man, not blinded by conceit, has more understanding. He knows he has needs that only God can meet.

Prov. 30:7 Excessive riches tend to keep people from seeking God. Extreme poverty may lead to sin which will lead a person away from God.

The middle-class is where you'll have spiritual strength and power with God. There will be enough money to support missionary programs, fund church building projects, provide for Bibles and gospel tracts, etc. Communism seeks to eliminate the middle-class.

Vs 6 Why do you despise the poor when it's the rich men who oppress you?

Vs 7 Rich men create blasphemous "charitable" organizations, put God's name on them, and judge you as "non-Christian" if you don't participate or donate. See Judas Iscariot for example (John 12:3-6).

Vs 8 The royal law: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself (see Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 19:19, 22:39, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:27, Romans 13:9, Galatians 5:14). If you obey this law, you won't break any of the commandments because you won't be sinning against anybody.

Vs 9 Having respect of persons violates the royal law and is sin.

Love your neighbor. Who is your neighbor? Anybody you may meet (Luke 10:29-37). Do for others what you would want them to do for you in the same situation.
