

JAMES STUDY

CHAPTER 2:5-9

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-302 JULY 18, 1998

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Partiality and its Influences”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
- deceiving yourselves.

Last Time Together We Saw “The Folly of Favoritism”

1.) The Dangers of Showing Partiality vv. 1

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality

1a.) Partiality Undermines The Faith of Christ vv.1a

1b.) Partiality Robs The Glory which is Christ's vv. 1b

1c.) Partiality Hides The Truth from the Christian vv. 1c

2.) Partiality and The Damage it Causes vv. 2-4

For if there should come into your assembly a man **with gold rings, in fine apparel**, and there should also come in a **poor man in filthy clothes**,³ and you **pay attention** to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool,"⁴ have you not shown partiality among yourselves, **and become judges** with evil thoughts?

2a.) **Appearance**, It Effects The Way We See Things vv. 2

2b.) **Attitude**, It Reveals Our Own Weakness vv. 3

“Partiality and it’s Influences”

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of The Text

vv. 5-9

James 2:5-9

Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not **chosen** the **poor** 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.

Do not the rich **oppress** you and **drag** you into the courts? ⁷ Do they not **blaspheme** that noble name by which you are **called**? ⁸ If you really fulfill **the royal law** according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; ⁹ but if you show **partiality**, you commit sin, and are **convicted** by the law as **transgressors**.

The Summation of the Text

Beginning in Chapter 2 verse 1 all the way through to verse 13, The Apostle James is systematically exposing the natural nature of the human heart which is ever prone to the dangers of showing Partiality or Favoritism!

Daniel Webster defines Partiality as:

“The premeditated choosing of one against another. The act of discriminating against someone at the expense of another!”

...and God is not like that

Acts 10:34

Peter learned this... "of a truth I perceive that God shows no partiality."

Romans 2:11

Paul echoed Peter’s newly discovered lesson when he said

“For there is no partiality with God.”

The Fact is...

God has Promised Us Equality **by the Blood of Christ**
(**actually (in) the Blood of Christ**)

Illustration of the Point

Try Dipping Something in Blood

(not a normal thing to do I know but...)

The **Coagulating** Properties of Blood are designed to Adhere to, to Stick, to form to what it comes in contact with

Revelation 1:5

Jesus Christ is the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins **in His own blood,**

I am not asking you if you believe in Christ...
I'm asking if you've applied His blood to your life?

Romans 5:9a

having now been justified by **His blood**

Are You Justified Today?

1 Peter 1:18-19

knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Personal Illustration

This Week I was Walking *down Nevsky Prospect, Saint Petersburg's great avenue, when I saw two Mormon missionaries pass by...we instantly changed our course and began to follow them and ...*

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that is not of yourselves; it is **the gift** of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

To a People of Pagan Worship and Human Effort.

Paul had to write to them by necessity, encouraging them to go back to the simplicity of the Gospel!

Galatians 2:16

"**knowing** that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; **for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**"

"Partiality and its Influences"

There are Three key questions asked:

The First, in verse 5

⁵ **Listen**, my beloved brethren: Has God not **chosen** the **poor** of this world to be rich in faith and **heirs** of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

and Second, in verse 6

⁶ Do not the rich **oppress** you and **drag** you into the courts?

and Third, in verse 7

⁷ Do they not **blaspheme** that noble name by which you are **called**?

and the answer to each is yes!

There are (4) four points of instruction given to us on
"how to not show favoritism"

1.) Why Has God Chosen The Poor ?

vv. 5

1a.) Because of His Benevolent Nature

vv. 5a

Listen, my beloved brethren:
Has God not **chosen** the **poor** of this world

It's a Question Asked with an Obvious Answer
Expected - It's a Given

* **Chosen** grk 1586 eklegomai (ek-leg'-om-ahee);
middle voice from (I did it myself) (He does what He wants) to select: make choice, choose (out), chosen.

Why? - Because It's His Nature to Except Them (us)

Jesus Himself Said - Matthew 26:11

"the poor you have with you always..."

Worldwide there are more Christians who are poor,
than those who are rich.

Look to the nations and see for yourself

- 1.) Because the Poor are often Desperate
- 2.) Because the Poor are often Searching
- 3.) Because the Poor are often Humble

The poor have been stripped of this world's goods
That truth often leads directly to THE Truth

* **Poor** grk 4434 ptochos (pto-khos');
a beggar, a pauper; one who's absolutely dependent upon the moment

The **poor** of this world

1 Corinthians 1:26-29, 31

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷ But **God has chosen** the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and **God has chosen** the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised **God has chosen**, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,..... ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence.... ³¹ "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

The Fact Is,
If Man Would Build a Heaven on Earth,
Only the Beautiful people would be Allowed in it, the Rich, the Famous

1 Timothy 1:15-16

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. ¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern **to those who are going to believe** on Him for everlasting life.

Why Has God Chosen The Poor?

Because they are aware of their need to be chosen, loved, and accepted

Acts 3:1-8

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; ³ who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. ⁴ And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." ⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. ⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them-- walking, leaping, and praising God.

Illustration of the Point

The Russian Priest Dressed in Cap and Long Black Gown

"I Want to Know the Name of Your God because He takes such wretched care of you?"

...At that the Lord spoke to my heart, I want Him!

* **beware** grk 4337 prosecho (pros-ekh'-o);
to hold them in your mind. To be cautious about, to apply oneself or to adhere oneself to them: - to attend to

Matthew 5:44-45a, 46

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven... ⁴⁶ "**For if you love those who love you, what reward have you?** Do not even the tax collectors (IRS) do the same?"

"Jesus Began to Plead With Him"

Galatians 5:14

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this:
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Verse 5a

Listen, my beloved brethren:

You See,

The Rich Man is No More Forgiven of His Sins This Day Than the Poor Man!

Titus 3:4-6 NIV

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ **he saved us**, not because of righteous things we have done, but because of his mercy. **He saved us** through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ **our Savior**,

Romans 5:8-9

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward **us**, in that while **we** were still sinners, Christ died for **us**. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, **we** shall be saved from wrath (future judgment) through Him.

God has no Favorites
Friend, there are only those who are His
and those who are not His

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body (blood)-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

1b.) Because of His **Free Reward**

vv. 5b

#1 - to be rich in faith and #2 - **heirs** of the kingdom
which He **promised** to those who love Him?

to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the Kingdom

* **heirs** grk 2818 kleronomos (klay-ron-om'-os);
in its original sense of **partitioning**, a receiver of what is being shared;
the inheritor

* **promised** grk 1861 epaggello (ep-ang-el'-lo);
to make the announcement upon. To make a guarantee; to tie or hook to the supply or
provisions

!! - PUMP THE KINGDOM - !!

Luke 12:32
"Do not fear, little flock,
for it is your Father's **good pleasure** to give you the kingdom.

* **pleasure** 2106 eudokeo (yoo-dok-eh'-o); from 2095 and 1380;
to think it a good idea. To think it appropriate (a person or thing):
thinking it a pleasure,

His Free Reward

Philippians 4:19
And my God shall supply all your need
according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28-29
28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and **heirs** according to the promise.

Romans 8:16-17a
For The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then **heirs--heirs** of God and joint **heirs** with Christ...

Ephesians 1:11
In Him also we have obtained an **inheritance**, being predestined (lay-a-way) according to the purpose of Him who works all things
according to the counsel of His will,

2 Corinthians 8:9
For you **know** the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Titus 3:7
that having been justified by His grace we should become **heirs** according to the hope of eternal life.

2.) Why Does God Need to Warn The Rich? vv. 6-7

2a.) Because the Rich Tend to **Dishonor** the Poor vv. 6

But you have **dishonored** the poor man. Do not the rich **oppress** you and **drag** you into the courts?
Do they not **blaspheme** that noble name by which you are **called**?

* **dishonored** grk 818 atimazo (at-im-ad'-zo);
to render contemptible or unworthy

It Even Happens in Church

Proverbs 14:20-21b

The poor man is **hated** even by his own neighbor, but the rich has many friends...
But he who has mercy on the poor, blessed is he.

1 Timothy 6:17-18

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

¹⁸ Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

Proverbs 19:17

He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD,
and God will pay back what he has given.

Are There Christians in this Church
that You Don't associate with because they're Poor?

By Ignoring them

You're Dishonoring the Poor

Proverbs 17:5a

He who **mocks** the poor reproaches God the Creator (of the poor)

2b.) Because the Rich Tend to **Oppress** the Poor

vv. 6

Our Riches are to be Used, Not Horded...

* **oppress** **grk** 2616 katadunasteuo (kat-ad-oo-nas-tyoo'-o);
to seize the position of authority over them. To exercise dominion; to exploit them

Proverbs 14:31a

for He who **oppresses** the poor reproaches his Maker,

Psalms 12:5

"For the **oppression** of the poor, and for the sighing of the needy,

I will arise," says the LORD; "and I will set him in the safety for which he yearns."

2c.) Because the Rich Tend to **Drag** the Poor into Court

vv.6

* **to drag**

is to use what is necessary to bind, hold down, to yoke them

1 Corinthians 6:1-3

Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? ² Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? ³ Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

1 Corinthians 6:4-8

If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? ⁵ I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? ⁶ But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! ⁷ Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? ⁸ No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!

Unable to defend themselves, the rich move in

Leviticus 19:15

'You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial against the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.

2d.) Because the Rich tend to **Blaspheme** God's Name

vv. 7

Do they not **blaspheme** that noble name by which you are **called**?

* **Blaspheme** **grk 987 blasphemeo (blas-fay-meh'-o);**
defame, rail on, revile, speak or to do evil against.

Matthew 18:23-35 NIV

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and

went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.' ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Here's The Victory Over Partiality: Love

Loving my neighbor (which is every person I come in contact with) allows no room for favorites

3.) God's Commandment: Love One Another vv. 8

If you **really** fulfill **the royal law** according to the Scripture,
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well;

3a.) Because Love Exterminates Favoritism vv. 8a

Leviticus 19:18

'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: **I am the LORD.**

I am the LORD

my children are different from those of this world

Romans 13:8

Owe no one anything
except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:10

Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

What Does it Mean to Love Your Neighbor

((what would you desire from a godly neighbor?))

If you **really** fulfill **the royal law**

(then there can be no partiality toward anyone)

Did you know that poor people **feel** just like the rich?
Did you know that poor people **hurt** just like the rich?

Did you know that poor people cry just like the rich?

Matthew 10:39

"He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

You will never be happy thinking about you

4.) God's Commandment: Change the Direction vv. 9

But if you show **partiality**, you commit sin, and are **convicted** by the law as **transgressors**.

4a.) Because We Sin in this Area vv. 9a

But if you show **partiality**, you commit sin,

Luke 10:25-30, 36-37

a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" ²⁷ So he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁸ And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." ²⁹ **But he, wanting to justify himself**, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves...." ³⁶ "So which of these three do you think was a neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" ³⁷ And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

This Parable is an X-Ray into this Man's "Partial" Heart

Let me do my religion, as long as I do not have to touch anyone

"Partiality and its Influences"

- 1.) It divides the church as a whole
The church is to be working together for the cause of Christ

- 2.) It weakens the body at large
When divisions exist, the body begins to consume itself
- 3.) It elevates the proud
Whenever there is an atmosphere of idolatry, Christ is absent
- 4.) It steals away a church's effectiveness
The church can no longer be inviting to those it pretends to reach