

**Weekly Summary:** Faith Works For The Poor

Human nature loves to pick favorites. Unfortunately, everyone in the church is human! James warns us against playing favorites at church.

**Homework Leading Into This Week:** James 2:1-13

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 58:6-11

# Faith Works: A Journey Through James Week 3: Faith Works For The Poor



- ❖ James 1:27 - Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



❖ Galatians 2:10 - All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

❖ James 2:1-4 - 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?

❖ We don't love the **needy** because we are **want-y**.

❖ James 2:5-9 - 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,"<sup>[a]</sup> you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

James 2:10-11 - 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,"<sup>[a]</sup> also said, "You shall not murder."<sup>[b]</sup> If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

James 2:12-13 - 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.

❖ Love = Doing what's **best**.

❖ Faith works to...

1. Give to **Good Samaritans**,
2. **Plan** for the poor,
3. **Partner** against poverty.



- ❖ James 2:5 - 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?

### **Points to Ponder**

1. Do you love poor people? Would poor people agree with you?
2. Read ahead to James 2:14-17. What challenge does James give to rich Christians?
3. Meditate on 2 Corinthians 8:9. List two things Jesus has to do with poor people.
4. Which, of any, of the three next steps do you plan to take? Share your plans with your group or a faithful friend.

## **Homework For Next Week: James 2:14.26**

*"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord."  
~ Proverbs 19:17*

### **Worship Through Song at The CORE:**

1. "Made New" - by Lincoln Brewster
2. "Keep Making Me" by Sidewalk Prophets
3. "Overcome" - by Jeremy Camp
4. "Diamonds" by Hawk Nelson