

#ADULTING

THE BOOK OF JAMES

REFLECTION- Adults don't discriminate

11/07/2025

Passage: James 2:1-7

James 2:1-7 ESV My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. 2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," 4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

- The sin of partiality
 - partiality= unfair favoritism/bias to one person or group over another; based on external factors such as wealth, social status, appearance
 - James specifically commands his brothers/sisters in Christ that they should not treat others this way
 - Partiality is contrary to and incompatible with the gospel
 - People are made in the image of God (*imago dei*- Gen 1:27), partiality is an attack of the *imago dei* that is etched into others
 - The message of the gospel is that Jesus has broken down every barrier whether cultural, racial, economic, or religious- **He died on the cross for all**
- Poor man vs wealthy man
 - James is making partiality real by giving an example that would be present in the synagogue. Most people were poor during this time so wealthy people were noticed- tending to them would be seeking personal gain. Do you seek attention from those who have titles, seem important, and have influence over others?
 - Believers should extend open arms to the poor, the socially awkward, the marginalized, the children, the disabled, the elderly, the rejected, etc.
 - What do we do when we recognize we have shown partiality?
 - Repent- turn from seeking the favor of people and seek to please God alone, pray to see others the way God looks at them
- Have you become a judge? Hasn't God used the poor to proclaim Jesus? Haven't the rich people shown injustice to you? Haven't the rich people cut down the name of Jesus?
 - These are four questions James poses to his readers to appeal to their rationale in verses 4-7. We should question our actions, motives, and treatment of others as well. Reflection and analyzing our Christian walk is an important step in maturity.

Begin your study time with prayer. Ask God to reveal Himself to you, help you understand what you are reading, and transform you with His Word (Ps 119:18).

1. Read James 2:1-7 in multiple translations (NASB, ESV & Amplified are all great options - you can easily compare in the Bible app or on biblegateway.com). Let the Scripture wash over you. Pick out words/phrases that stand out. If you don't know the meaning of any words, look them up.
2. In what ways have you seen partiality? What things tend to be respected? What tends to be looked down on negatively?
3. Have you ever seen someone show partiality to one person over another? Have you ever felt this creep into your own heart? Explain.
4. How is partiality contrary and incompatible with the gospel? What does it mean to look at people through the eyes of Christ?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. What truths does this verse highlight?
6. Read 1 John 4:19-21. What does this verse declare? How can you embody this verse this week? Do you need to repent of how you have been treating someone in your own life? Pray about that throughout the week.