

James 2:1-13

“Mercy”

March 15, 2026

V 1 Literally, “our Lord Jesus Christ, of glory”

James is likely thinking of the Shekinah glory, the presence of God abiding “with us.”

“partiality” = personal favoritism; treating one person better than another for one reason or another.

We are all dull, compared to the glory of Jesus Christ. We shouldn't treat some as brighter or better.

Vv 2-4 “evil thoughts,” as in, “What can this person do for our church?” vs “How many resources, or how much prestige, is his person going to cost our church?”

Some circumstances in which we are tempted toward partiality:

Wealthy vs poor; Highly educated vs not highly educated (don't confuse education with intelligence); Lots of degrees, vs GED; Home school, Christian school, public school; Drives Corvette, vs Chevette; Vote Red, or vote Blue; American vs not American; White vs black; No kids, or 10 kids; Business owner, or employee?

Evil thoughts: How can this person help me? Can this person make me look good? Will we seem successful if this person (or group of people) comes to our church? Can we build a new fellowship hall if we get this guy?

1 Samuel 16:7 “... for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

V 5 The poor man may have greater opportunity to learn to trust in God than the rich man, who is tempted to trust his riches to meet his needs. It only takes minimal faith to believe in Christ as your Savior. To be “rich in faith” is to trust Him in our daily lives.

“heirs of the kingdom”

Psalms 2:7-9 God promised His Son the nations for an inheritance, and the Earth for His possession to rule over. He did not do that the first time He was here.

Hebrews 1:5-9 “But when He again brings the firstborn into the world,” at His second coming, then the Son will receive the promised Kingdom. **2 Timothy 2:11-13** Believers who endure, who do not fall away from following Christ, will inherit a ruling position alongside Him. To those who deny Christ in this life, He will deny the co-regency.

Revelation 2:25-27 Christ will share His reign with the “overcomers.” We become overcomers when we live a life of obedience to Him.

John 14:21-23 We demonstrate our love for Christ by keeping His commandments.

James 2:5 One way we demonstrate our love to Him, and inherit the kingdom, is by obeying His command to not show partiality.

Vv 6,7 We tend to ghost people whom we think can't hurt us. We tend to cater to people who actually treat us like they don't like us.

V 8 It's “The Royal Law” because:

1. It's the law of the Ruler of the Kingdom.
2. It's the law upon which all the other laws depend.
3. It represents conduct fitting for a king. **See Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:35-40.**

Vv 9-11 To the proud Jew, who thought he was keeping the Law and doing well because he didn't do a few “major” sins, James says, “You are a lawbreaker.” The Law is a unit, and you can't break part of it; you either keep it, or you break it. If you do not love neighbor as yourself, you are guilty of murder, adultery, lying, stealing, blasphemy, everything the law prohibits. This is a problem if one says a Christian will not commit certain sins; any sin is breaking the law of God.

V 12 The believer is free from “condemnation,” (**Romans 8:1**), but “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,” (**2 Cor 5:10**). This is for determination of reward or loss of reward, not for eternal life. God has no partiality, and He is an impartial judge. See **Leviticus 19:15; Ephesians 6:5-9; Acts 10:34.**

“law of liberty” = the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, which has set us free from the law of sin and death. (**Romans 8:2**)

V 13 Mercy *eleos* = compassion for someone in need; clemency; pity; not getting what you deserve
Do we want to receive mercy at the Judgement Seat of Christ?
We must be merciful people.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.