

HANDOUT PART 4 JAMES 2: 1-13 RICH MAN POOR MAN

In today's Text, James Seeks to Help Us Practice God's Word, With A Simple Test. He watches how 2 visitors are treated with different social status: **READ JAMES 2:1-13**

- **KEY:** *"The Way, We Behave Toward People Indicates What We Truly Believe About God!"*
- James Provides 4 Basic Christian Doctrines in the Light of the Way We Treat Other People.
1) Favoritism is Sin 2) Faith is Demonstrated Through Our Actions 3) Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment 4) The Royal Law of Love.

Favoritism is Sin: James Condemns Showing Preferential Treatment to the Wealthy or those of Higher Position or Social Standing...While Neglecting Those Who Are NOT. **Romans 2:11; Colossians 3:25**

- Christians are Not to Show Favoritism: **James 2:1** James points out that treating any person differently based on their Financial status or how They are Dressed is Wrong.
- **Justice Should Be BLIND...Both Rich and Poor Should Be Treated Equally. James 2:8-9**
- Church Leaders are Especially Charged Not to Show Favoritism. **1 Timothy 5:21**

Point: It is Difficult to Avoid Showing Favoritism. Even Christ's Closest Followers Struggled with Bias Against People Different from Them. **Acts 10 the Apostle Peter**

- **KEY: WE MUST CHOOSE TO LOVE ALL PERSONS THE SAME!**

Faith is Demonstrated Through Actions: True Faith is Not Merely a Belief But is Actively Shown Through Our Actions and How We Treat Others. Our Works, Reveal the Reality of Our Faith.

ASK: Do MY Actions Demonstrate MY Faith In the God of the Impossible? It is Easy to Say I Believe God Can Do Anything. *While In Reality, Our Actions Speak Differently Than Our Words.*

- This Morning, Do You have a Robust Faith [TRUST] in the God of the Impossible.
- God wants Us to Demonstrate Robust Faith Through Both Our Words and Actions.

Trust Grows as We know God better and Experience His Working in Our Lives. As We Do...We Learn to Depend on Him and Believe Him for Greater Things. As we daily spend time in God's Word...We will be ready to take Faith Risks and Stretch Ourselves...And Reminding Ourselves of Who He is and What He has done for Us in the Past...Are Things that Grow Our Faith in God.

When our kids were little, one of the things they loved was for Me to do was to Throw them Up in the Air. They Delighted in the thrill...The higher I threw them, the Louder they Screamed "Again, Daddy, Again."

- They had Faith in My Power and in My Love, That I Would Not Let them Fall.
- And Because of Their Faith in Me...They Could Delight in the Thrill of the Game.

POINT: God is Our Father and He Wants Us to Trust Him and Enjoy Life With Him!

- To Ask God for Grace to Both Grow in Faith and Enjoy the Challenges that Come During Our Journey With Him.
- That Means We Need to Be Open to Taking Risks to Accomplish God's Purpose!

As We Take Risks, Outside of Our Comfort Zone, We Demonstrate Our Faith in God:

- **When We Take Risks of Faith to Reach Out to the Lost Around Us.** It can be scary. But As We Step Out Knowing that Only God Gives the Increase, We Can Trust HIM! This Opens the Door to "LifeStyle" Evangelism and Building God's Kingdom!
- **When We Take Risks of Faith in Praying Impossible, Audacious Prayers.** It gets God's attention when we cry out to Him in prayers that are far beyond Our Limited Capacity...Because **"God is Attracted to Faith."**

- **When We Demonstrate Faith Taking Risks by Setting Bold, God-Sized Goals:** When We Step Out in Faith to Declare a Vision or Goal that Comes from HIS HEART, it **Delights Our Heavenly Father. He Sees Our Faith and Rewards It.**
- **When We Take Risks of Faith by Investing in “Less than Perfect” People.** The Key is to Believe in People more than they believe in themselves. To see them with God’s Eyes, Who they can become. *Encouraging them and Forgiving them When they Make Mistakes.*
- **When We Take Risks of Faith by Living a Life of Great Generosity.** In the Kingdom of God Generosity is far more valuable than Prosperity. It Requires Faith to Give Sacrificially to Those in Need or to God’s Work.

QUESTION TO ASK: *Does My Giving Demonstrate My Faith? Do I Regularly Give Beyond My Means or Sacrifice My Own Needs to Help Others?*

James says, Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment: James stresses that showing mercy to others, even those who have wronged us, is a Reflection of God’s Own Merciful Nature.

- *This Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment, meaning that our Actions of Love and Forgiveness Towards Others will be Mirrored Back to Us on Judgment Day.*

The Concept that “Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment” Emphasizes the Importance of Extending Compassion and Forgiveness, Reflecting God’s Own Merciful Nature.

POINT: *It’s Not about Disregarding Justice, But Rather about Recognizing that God’s Mercy, Particularly through Christ’s Sacrifice, Offers a Path to Salvation that Transcends Strict Judgment Based on Law. Christians are Called to Mirror this Mercy in their Interactions with Others.*

James Speaks to the “Royal Law of Love”: James Connects Favoritism to the Violation of the “Royal Law,” which is to Love Our Neighbor As Ourselves.

- Treating others with Prejudice based on outward appearances or status goes Against this Fundamental Principle of Love. This Is LifePoint’s DNA: Matthew 22: 37-39

God’s Mercy is Our Example: The Passage Reminds Us that God has Shown Immense Mercy to Us, and We should Extend that Same Mercy to Others, including showing mercy to those who have wronged us.

Example>>>The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant in Matthew 18:21-35 Is A Great Reminder of What God has Done for Us...And what He wants Us to do for Others!

We’ve Been Forgiven So Much More Than We Could Have Ever Paid! Every time I think I have went as far as I can with another person...God reminds me of all that He has done for Me...AND I MUST ASK MYSELF...HOW CAN I DO LESS!

These 4 Principles: Favoritism is Sin...Faith is Demonstrated Through Our Actions... Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment...And The Royal Law of Love.

- LEAVE US NO ROOM TO NOT LOVE EVERY PERSON...NO MATTER WHAT!

“LIFE” POINT: THE ONLY TIME WE SHOULD LOOK DOWN ON A BROTHER OR SISTER IS WHEN WE ARE HELPING THEM UP!