

Seeing as God Sees James 2:5-13 (NKJV)

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? 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. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. 11 For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

James pauses on the topic of partiality because he wants to make sure that we all got it.

It is like getting the second dose of antibiotics because one is not enough.

So again James deals with this but comes from a different direction.

This time he wants us to see this issue as God sees it.

I. Don't dishonor those whom God has honored.

A. Deuteronomy 7:7-8 (NKJV)

1. 7 The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
2. Psalm 41:1 (NKJV)
 - a. 1 Blessed is he who considers the poor; The LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.
3. Psalm 68:10 (NKJV)
 - a. 10 Your congregation dwelt in it; You, O God, provided from Your goodness for the poor.
4. Psalm 113:7 (NKJV)
 - a. 7 He raises the poor out of the dust, And lifts the needy out of the ash heap,

5. Proverbs 21:13 (NKJV)
 - a. 13 Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor Will also cry himself and not be heard.
 6. Proverbs 28:27 (NKJV)
 - a. 27 He who gives to the poor will not lack, But he who hides his eyes will have many curses.
 7. Proverbs 31:9 (NKJV)
 - a. 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy.
 8. If we disdain the poor and fail to help meet their needs, we disdain God Himself. If our prayers are not being answered, we do well to take inventory of how we have treated those around us who are in financial straits.
 9. Because, as believers, we have been reborn with God's own nature, we are to reflect His great love and care for those in need. *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – James, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1998), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 107-108.*
- B. God choose[s] the poor of this world to be... heirs of the kingdom which He promised.
1. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NKJV)
 - a. 26 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.
 2. Matthew 19:23-24 (NKJV)
 - a. 23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."
 3. Not every rich man is doomed to be damned (e.g., Joseph of Arimathaea, Mark 15:43-47), and not every poor man is sure to be saved; but for the purposes of this chapter there is a deep difference between the rich, in general, and the poor, in general, and there is, in general, an equation of

the poor and the world's despised. *James B. Adamson, The New International Commentary on the New Testament – The Epistle of James, (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1976), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 108.*

II. Don't honor evil men.

A. Just because they are rich they often are allowed to continue in sin.

1. We see that brought to light with two very prominent but rich and influential men in the last year.
2. They were terribly evil and all the people close to them knew it but they let it slide.
3. This should never be the case in the church.

B. James 2:6-7 (NKJV)

1. 6 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?
2. He reminds them of who the oppressors are.
3. He reminds them who it is that blasphemes the name of Jesus Christ.

III. Keep the Royal Law

A. James 2:8-9 (NKJV)

1. 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.

B. If you show partiality you cannot fulfill the royal law.

1. It is the royal law for it is the King's law.
2. John 13:34 (NKJV)
 - a. 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
3. Matthew 22:37-40 (NKJV)
 - a. 37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

IV. A Sin Is a Sin Is a Sin

- A. It is not that all sins are equal it is that all sins make you a sinner.
 - 1. James 2:10-11 (NKJV)
 - a. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. 11 For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

V. Benefits of Mercy

- A. James 2:12-13 (NKJV)
 - 1. 12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.
- B. If you show no mercy you will know no mercy.
 - 1. Jesus put it another way.
 - 2. Matthew 6:14-15 (NKJV)
 - a. 14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.