

The SIN of PARTIALITY ~ James 2:1-7

→Scripture Reading- Jn 1.14, Jm. 2.1, 6-7, Rev. 7.9-10

INTRODUCTION

The Problem with Partiality, Prejudice, Favoritism, or Discrimination is that...

- we assign MORE Value to one person and LESS Value to someone else
- if we DO then we rob them of their DIGNITY as a person made in GOD'S IMAGE

Judges with EVIL Thoughts ~ James 2:1-4

[1] My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.

John 1:14 (NIV) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his **GLORY**, the **GLORY** of the **One and Only**, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

[2] Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. [3] 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," [4] have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

APPLICATION

When we **sin** by showing **favoritism** we imply that God did not make all men and women equal. HCSB

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was RICH, yet for your sakes He became POOR, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. [10] And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

RICH in FAITH ~ James 2:5-7

[5] Listen, my dear brothers: 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?

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the POOR in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[6] But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? [7] Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

→**EXPLOITING them**- taking advantage of them economically

→**THREATENING their SECURITY**- taking away their Freedom

→**ATTACKING their IDENTITY**- Christ is the Center of their Faith and life

1 Peter 4:14 (NIV) If you are insulted because of the NAME of Christ, you are blessed...

Everyone should be treated equally - **as beings created in the IMAGE of God**. The rich and the poor should be accorded equal honor and kindness. **Discrimination or favoritism is SIN**. PTW

IMPLICATIONS

1- DANGER - to say that the WEALTHY should Not be welcomed

James does not say that ALL poor people are "rich in faith," nor does he exclude the rich from the ranks of the saved. Expositor's

Acts 10:28 (NLT) Peter told them, "You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean.

Acts 10:34-36 (NLT) Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows NO favoritism. [35] In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. [36] This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel - that there is peace WITH God THROUGH Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Acts 10:42-44 (NLT) And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all - the living and the dead. [43] He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who BELIEVES in Him will have their sins forgiven through HIS name." [44] Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message.

→ Danger for us becomes anything External we use to VALUE one person ABOVE another

2- DANGER - wealth and prosperity may keep a person from seeing their NEED for God

1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NLT) Yet true godliness with CONTENTMENT is itself great wealth. [7] After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. [8] So if we have enough food and clothing, let us **be CONTENT**. [9] But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. [10] For **the love of money** is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, **craving money**, have **wandered from the true faith** and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

TAKE AWAY ??

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NIV) Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. [27] But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. [28] He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are, [29] so that no one may boast before him.

I will be delighted by those I find are actually there. I will be shocked to see who is not there whom I assumed would be. And then **I will be speechless with wonder as I realize that by God's grace I am there**. C Spurgeon