



Epistle of James (Lesson # 14)

James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

Last week #13 Condemnation of favoritism - Andrew

***1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism.² For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes,³ and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?**

Today #14 Results of favoritism - Roy

***5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose 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. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?**

Next 2 weeks James 2:8-17 #15 &16 Favoritism, royal law, & law of liberty parts 1&2 - Bob



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

*5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith & heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

6a But you have dishonored the poor man.

Observations on verse 5-6a

Listen is a command, and in the previous text God has thru James explained that He has given us ears that can hear Him clearly now.

He has made us His children, born from above, born by His will and love.

Beloved brethren, we, in family relationship with James, are God's loved ones.

As His loved children, we share His very nature, so we are sensitive to Him.

We could only hear parables before He birthed us, now He clearly speaks to us.

We now hear His voice, because He is intimately speaking from inside us, 24x7.

As our Father, He has made us with ears and eyes and minds that sense Him.

As our Father, He has given us under-shepherds to teach us about Himself.

As we read what He has made, both physical and spiritual, we hear Him.

As we read the words of the Bible, He talks to us, and we hear Him.

James 1:21; "the implanted Word" = God's Word, spoken to us & believed by us, as given by God the Holy Spirit, Who now is permanently dwelling inside us



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

*5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith & heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

6a But you have dishonored the poor man.

Observations on verse 5-6a (continued)

So, Listen to Him now from what we have in the previous words in James...

See James 1:21 “the implanted Word” is God speaking to us, & we “in meekness believe & trust Him”. Our love response is to believe Him, that is, we trust Him.

Our loving trust is in all of Who He is and all He has done, not in anything else.

The “implanted Word” is in the previous verses, James 1:1-2:4...looking back...

1:1-4 We lovingly trust Him with unpolluted joy even when surrounded by trials

1:5-8 We lovingly trust Him by asking and getting “wisdom” from Him in trials

1:9-11 That “wisdom” is, that whether we be poor or rich in earthly terms, God’s patient nature in us, is matured by tests of earthly poverty or wealth

1:12 God’s nature, that is “wise” in us, includes patient endurance under stress, because God rewards us for sharing His suffering in our earthly life.

In harmony with Him, we suffer in trials, with His nature of patient endurance.

Remember He told Saul that he(Saul) was persecuting Him(God) when he(Saul) was persecuting His family(believers), Acts 9:4, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? Col 1:24...my sufferings for your sakes...are a part of Christ’s afflictions



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

*5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith & heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

6a But you have dishonored the poor man.

Observations on verse 5-6a (continued)

So, Listen to Him now from what we have in the previous words in James...

James 1:13-15 God never tries us to make us sin, we sin out of our sin nature.

1:16-18 We can be fooled to trust lies about the source of trials, God gives only good gifts.

His work makes us the first of His kind of children. We are of God's kind now.

1:19-21 We can respond to trials with open, (believing truth) ears, or in contrast with closed to truth ears, speaking our own words, and showing our own anger.

Only God's words, wisely believed, can overcome and master our human souls.

1:22-25 God's command is to keep on being a cleaned person for God's use as He reveals Himself to us and through us for eternity.

1:26-27 We can be fooled in our hearts, to trust in our own spoken words, rather than revealing our new Divine nature, which cares for suffering orphans and widows, and separates us from the filth of the world.

This is a repeated message from God in His letter, written to us through James.



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

*5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith & heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

6a But you have dishonored the poor man.

Observations on verse 5-6a (continued)

So, Listen to Him now from what we have in these words in James...

James 2:1-4 Gives us one “filth of the world” that our new Divine nature will keep us away from, if we correctly listen to God.

That worldly filth is man’s judgement based on outside appearance, instead of God’s judgement, from our new Divine nature, of value seen to exist inside.

2:5 God has chosen the poor, (the “low valued man” from the world’s view), to be given faith, (the reality of God), and to be God’s heirs, (of all God’s wealth).

God’s choice is based on the inclusive plural of poor men and heirs, but it is limited only by the value God sees inside each one, that is, their love of Him.

Man’s spiritually alive to God Divine nature sees the reality inside men, but man’s spiritually dead to God nature sees only part of what is inside men.

God made us His kind, having His nature, we can see the reality inside men, but we need the help of God, the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, to reveal to us, reality.

God, the Holy Spirit, implants the things of Christ in us through our new eyes, ears and minds using the words of the Bible, and His under-shepherds help us.



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

*5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not **God** choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith & heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

6a But **ye** have despised the poor.

Observations on verse 5-6a (continued)

So, Listen to Him now from what we have in these words in James...

James 2:5b As well as rich in faith of all that is real, God adds here that His wealth includes the reality of His Kingdom.

God the Father, the Son, & the Spirit are absolute in sovereignty, that is, nothing exists superior to Them. But They have chosen to give God the Son, as the perfect union of God and Man, a perfectly created kingdom.

This is a huge subject, and God talks about this kingdom throughout His word. God wants us to hear Him, He has promised this kingdom to us who love Him

This promise is mentioned in addition to the promise of His life in James 1:12. We need to examine the limits of these promises, to “those who love Him”. See Mt 5:3,5; Mk 10:17-22; 1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:21; Eph 5:5, & as to love, 1 Jn 3:2-11.

Our Divine nature now is growing in love for Him, and this new nature can not sin, come short or step over perfection, as far as God is concerned. We all who are born from above as His new in kind members of His family do love Him.

God considers us already completed vessels of grace. Our condition now is in growing love of Him, our fixed by God position is love completely valuing Him.



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

*5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not **God** choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith & heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

6a But **you** have dishonored the poor man.

Observations on verse 5-6a (continued)

So, Listen to Him now from what we have in these words in James...

Notice the words above in red, **God** and **you**. Do you see the contrast here?

God chooses upon what He sees in the inside of men to bless men, abundantly. & we choose upon what we see on the outside of men to dishonor men.

The source of our sin is not our possessed Divine nature of God, this is from our condemned and fired human nature, that cannot see or hear or think like God.

We learned from Christ by the work of God the Holy Spirit, that we have taken off the old man we were, and now are being renewed in our minds with opened eyes and ears to the voice of God because we have put on the new man, as new in kind creations of God, with His nature to now see and hear and think correctly. See 1 Cor 1:26-31; Eph 4:17-24; Col 3:9-10; Rom 15:7, & honor men as God does.

We learn by listening to God's word, placed in us by God's Spirit. How strong is this message. We died, were buried, and raised with Him as new men like Him!

So, are we listening to God and believing that He has freed us from slavery to sin as sinners, and created now as new in His kind of spiritually alive humanity, to now see and hear and think with His very kind of nature! This is reality, now!



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

*5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not **God** choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith & heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

6a But **you** have dishonored the poor man.

Observations on verse 5-6a (continued)

So, Listen to Him now from what we have in these words in James...

Notice again the contrasted product of these two sources, from **God** and **you**.

God produces, out of trusting in Him men, new spiritual humans, who are fully informed of reality and eternally living under His perfect authority with eternal pure joy of being married to Him, forever in the perfect harmony of His love.

We produce, out of trusting in our fired nature, the worlds opinions, or Satans lies, ie by trusting as real anything other than Him: our dishonor of men who do not show outwardly what we think is real; our willful ignorance of what is real; our joy in causing others to dishonor the very ones God honors and loves; and we dishonor our God who is the creator of every member of His new family.

We must listen to this message from God! He has informed us of His reality!

God did not leave us here, condemning us for listening to anything other than Himself.

He tells us more to make us aware of how He sees this evil, in verses 6b-7.

It is not a pretty picture that He shares with us, but it is a real picture.



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

*6b Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?
7 Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

Observations on verse 6b-7

Here God informs us with two questions to make us think correctly, to think when answering Him, with what He knows we have learned about the products of all men, who are controlled by our sinful fallen human natures.

If we have earthly wealth, we just can never get enough to satisfy our greed. We have in our fallen nature, from Adam to the present, insatiable selfish greed. No man is immune to this greed because it is common to all of us.

This unsatisfied greed produces a resultant behavior that thinks it is ok to steal from others who have what we want. This is oppression mentioned in verse 6b.

The oppression is on anyone, including believers, who have something wanted out of the greed of our fallen natures. This is known to be common to all who have a fallen nature, starting with Adam and Eve to the present.

We all want what we think God is holding out from us. What attractive thing are we missing & how can we get it? This is the root of man's self-focused greed.

We know this greed produces joy in the oppression of stealing reputations, or anything wanted, & it leads to using even legal ways to get others to do it too.

See Mk 13:9; Acts 4:1-3; 13:50; 16:19; 19:23-41.

This is all of man's fallen nature, and is not from God's Divine nature.



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

***6b Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?
7 Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?**

Observations on verse 6b-7(continued)

God questions us in verse 7 to remind us what we know is another product of our human fallen nature, that of dishonoring God's source of good, His nature. Even to calling God's perfect nature, to be not worth honor, to be bad, even evil. Blaspheme means to slander, to lie about, or to speak with contempt, even hate. Man's fallen nature reaches the goal of its kind, the hatred of God is so much it even hates God's nature being shown in anyone, even ourselves.

This is Satan's nature and goal, and we have his fallen nature characteristics since Adam.

God ends this question with the statement that you have been called or named as "Christians", meaning you are like Christ ones. This is echoed in Acts 11:26; "...and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."

Even though this is true, Satan, and the world's surface observations, and all men's fallen natures, even our own, take this to be evil, not good, very offensive.

See this in Gal 5:17; "For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another,..."

And in 2 Cor 2:15-16; "For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life."



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

And now some closing thoughts of application.

**What is our perspective of men, on the outside view or on the inside view?
Are we listening to God, trusting His reality vs the lies from any other source.
Are we eagerly listening to Him, being fully equipped with His reality, and singing in harmony with His songs, as He reveals His perfection, both to us and through us.
Are we recognizing and honoring all members of His family, wealthy or poor, as new of His kind of beings, chosen by Him to share, as we do, His family life and kingdom forever.**

May this be the thought we may all share from these verses...

Out of the power of God's Word implanted in us by His Spirit, we are personally blessed to personally listen to God, to be filled with His pure good, and to eternally live in the joy of God's harmony.

Let's listen to the "implanted Word" we have from God today



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

***⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose 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. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?**

**** ⁵ Listen, my brothers beloved: hasn't the God chosen for Himself the dependent men of the world *to be* rich in faith even *to be* heirs of the kingdom which was promised to those loving Him?**

⁶ But you have dishonored the dependent man.

Aren't the rich men oppressing you, and aren't they drawing you into court?

⁷ Aren't they slandering the worthy name, the one named upon you?

***** ^{5-6a} Listen, my brethren, beloved ones. Did not God select out for himself those who are poor in the world's estimation to be wealthy in the sphere of faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But as for you, you dishonored the poor man.**

^{6b-7} Do not those who are wealthy exploit, oppress, and dominate you, and they themselves drag you into law-courts? Is it not they themselves who revile and defame the honorable name [Christian] which was given you?

* Scripture is from NASU 1995, ** My literal translation

*** Wuest's expanded translation



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

*5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

^{5a} Ἀκούσατε, [v imperative aor act 2ppl ἀκούω] Listen (imperative, command)
ἀδελφοί [n voc masc pl ἀδελφός] brothers (members of God's family)
μου [pro pers gen s ἐγώ] of me, my, of me (personal, by family relationship)
ἀγαπητοί. [adj voc masc pl ἀγαπητός] beloved (loved intimately)
Οὐχ [particle or disj part οὐ] did not (intro to question based of a fact)
ὁ θεός [def art+n masc s ὁ θεός] the God (specifically the only real God)
ἐξελέξατο [v ind aor mid 3ps ἐκλέγομαι] chosen, picked out for Himself (middle voice)
τοὺς πτωχοὺς [def art+adj acc masc pl ὁ πτωχός] the poor, destitute, dependent men
τοῦ κόσμου [def art+n gen masc s κόσμος] of the world (poor per world's opinion)
Note: BGT has (Alexandrian text put it as dative to clarify this is the world's opinion)
τῷ κόσμῳ [def art+n dat masc s κόσμος] to the world, (poor in the eyes of the world)

** My literal translation

Listen, my brothers beloved: hasn't the God chosen for Himself the dependent men of the world



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

*5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world *to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?*

^{5b} πλουσίους [adj acc mpl πλούσιος] **rich**, wealthy

ἐν [prep+dat ἐν] **in**, by, with

πίστει, [n dat fem s πίστις] **faith**, trust, confidence (quality & quantity of reality)

Note: God's focus is not ability but content ... open ears of believers get abundance

See Mt 11:15 & Mt 13:10-15

καὶ [conj καί] and, **even**, also, indeed

κληρονόμους [n acc masc pl κληρονόμος] **heirs**, receivers

τῆς βασιλείας [def art+n gen fem s βασιλεία] **of the kingdom**

ἧς [pro rel gen fem s ἧς] **which**, (refers to the kingdom)

ἐπηγγείλατο [v ind aor mid 3ps ἐπαγγέλλομαι] **was promised** (Lk 6:20 Lk 12:31-32)

τοῖς [def art dat masc pl οἱ] **to those**

ἀγαπῶσιν [part pres act dat masc pl ἀγαπάω] **loving**

αὐτόν; [pro pers acc masc s αὐτός] **Him**

**** My literal translation**

to be rich in faith even to be heirs of the kingdom which was promised to those loving Him?



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

* 6 **But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?**

6 Ὑμεῖς [pro pers nom pl σύ] **you**

δὲ [conj δέ] **but**

ἠτιμάσατε [v ind aor act 2ppl ἀτιμάζω] despised, disrespect, **dishonored**, insult, shame
τὸν πτωχόν. [def art+adj acc masc s πτωχός] **the poor, dependent man.**

Οὐχ [particle or disj part οὐ] **Do not** (intro to question based of a fact)

οἱ πλούσιοι [def art+adj nom masc pl πλούσιος] **the rich men**

καταδυναστεύουσιν [v ind pres act 3ppl καταδυναστεύω] dominate, **oppressing**, exploit

ὑμῶν, [pro pers gen pl σύ] **you**

καὶ [conj καί] **and**, also, even

αὐτοὶ [pro pers nom masc pl αὐτός] **they**, (refers to rich men)

ἔλκουσιν [v ind pres act 3ppl ἐλκύω] haul, drag, **drawing** (sword from a sheath)

ὑμᾶς [pro pers acc pl σύ] **you**

εἰς [prep εἰς] **into**, toward, in order to, to the end that

κριτήρια; [n acc neut pl κριτήριον] **court**, lawsuit

****my literal translation (in close to Greek text order)**

But you have dishonored the dependent man.

Aren't the rich men oppressing you, and aren't they drawing you into court?



James 2:5-7 Results of Favoritism

*7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

⁷ Οὐκ [particle or disj part οὐ] **Do not** (intro to question based on a fact)
αὐτοὶ [pro pers nom masc pl αὐτός] **they** (refers to the rich men)
βλασφημοῦσιν [v ind pres act 3ppl βλασφημέω] **slandering**, defame, blaspheme, insult
Note: This word means *to speak in such a way as to injure the reputation of another*. It is used in Ephesians 4:31 and Colossians 3:8 and is translated *slander* in both places. It is set in the context of evil motives such as bitterness or anger. (McCalley)
τὸ καλὸν [def art+adj acc neut s καλός] **the** sound, good, **worthy**
ὄνομα [n acc neut s ὄνομα] **name**, reputation, identity, fame
τὸ ἐπικληθὲν [def art+part aor pass acc neut s ἐπικαλέομαι] **the one named**, called
ἐφ' [prep ἐπί] on, **upon**, rule over, control over
ὑμᾶς; [pro pers acc pl σύ] **you**

****my literal translation (in close to Greek text order)**

Aren't they slandering the worthy name, the one named upon you?

Expanded:

Aren't they slandering the worthy reputation or character of the one you have been named for?

Expanded a bit more:

Aren't they slandering the worthy nature of the one who has shared His nature with you and through you?