





became rich in faith" (Deuteronomy. 7:7-8)? What is God's heart toward the poor (Deuteronomy 10:17-19; Galatians 2:10)?

10. Does God exclude the "rich of this world" from "be[ing] rich in faith"? What Biblical examples do we have of rich men who exhibited faith in God (Genesis 13:2; Job 1:2; Matthew 27:57; Luke 19:8)? Note: two are mentioned in this very letter written by James (1:3; 5:11).

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"If we would follow the Lord Jesus Christ then it must be our glory, as it was his, to be incessantly and preponderantly on the side of the poor, the underprivileged, the disadvantaged and the oppressed. To do this identifies ourselves with the very heart of God and to live obediently to the main line of His revealed will." —J.A. Motyer

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11. What is promised to those who are rich in faith in verse 5 (and also Matthew 19:23-30)?

12. James wishes for the readers to probe themselves in the area of personal favoritism. Like a good "parent" he asks them, "What are you thinking?" What questions does James ask in order for them to evaluate their partiality?

13. It is also good for us to think about why we are showing partiality. Here are some possible reasons we might treat others with preference.

- A. They are well-liked and we want to be well-liked.
- B. We think others will associate us with the shabby, edgy, or smart dress of the person we are with.
- C. We want to be with those who are spiritually healthy or fun instead of someone who is "needy" and problem-laden.
- D. Sometimes we think, "Well, at least I am not like that!" We distinguish others' apparent sin problems and make ourselves feel that we are doing better than they are.
- E. We want something from them.
- F. Fill in your own \_\_\_\_\_

Which of these motives might be the biggest struggle for you? How can you combat this attitude?

14. Not all motives are evil, though. James gives a situation where the believer could be making a distinction with godly motives. What would that be according verse 8?

Modern Day Example

**SCENARIO 1:** You have been out of work for the past three months and Mr. Sony walks into Calvary Bible Church. You approach Mr. Sony to make sure he has a bulletin, is in a seat where the lighting and sound is preferable. You invite Mr. Sony to lunch after second service even though you have never invited a first time guest before.

**SCENARIO 2:** Years ago you worked for Mr. Sony and really struggled to show Him Christ's love and preference. When you see him approaching the double doors from the parking lot, you pray and ask our glorious Lord to let His love show through you. You take a bulletin, greet Mr. Sony and ask if he wants to sit

with you. You offer him your favorite seat because it is well lit. During service you pray about how you can "treat Mr. Sony as yourself," so you invite him to your humble 800 square foot Burbank home for lunch to make him feel loved.

Which of the above scenarios above reflect the appropriate motive? Write the number below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Partiality from evil motives

\_\_\_\_\_ Preference in fulfilling the Royal Law

15. How serious is committing the sin of partiality according to verses 9 and 10? See also Romans 13:10 and Galatians 5:3.

16. In conclusion, James leaves us with two lasting thoughts.

A. The first is in verse 12. What is it? And what does it mean according to John 8:31-32 and Romans 6:6-11?

"So speak and so \_\_\_\_\_ as those who are to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

B. For the second thought, read Matthew 18:21-35 to discover what the character of every saved person should include:

"\_\_\_\_\_ triumphs over \_\_\_\_\_."

17. Why would an understanding of the truths taught in this lesson be important for you?

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18. How do the truths in this chapter apply to your own life?