



LESSON 6 - JAMES 2:1-13 (STUDENT)

1. What changes did you make as a result of applying last week's lesson?
2. Read James 2:1-13. What are these verses talking about? How would you summarize them in one sentence?
3. In the original language, James gives a strong reminder, even to the point of rebuking his readers. What is the strong reminder in verse 1?
4. What adjective is given to Jesus Christ and how does this remind us of our identity in Him? See also John 1:14
5. What is happening in verses 2 and 3, and how is this contrasted with the adjective in verse 1?

6. Verse 4 tells us something about ourselves when we make distinctions about the outer man. It says, "[we] have become _____."

7. Record a time you have made a distinction between people based on eternal appearances. What were your motives? What does verse 4 say about the motivation?

8. How does James show his readers that they have the wrong perspective about outer appearances according to verse 5 (See also Proverbs 17:5; 22:2 and Proverbs 29:13)?

9. James makes a general statement that is mostly true in life (much like a Proverb). What example in the Old Testament do we have "of the poor who became rich in faith" (Deuteronomy. 7:7-8)? What is God's heart toward the poor (Deuteronomy 10:17-19 and 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, 1:3; Matthew 27:57; Luke 19:8)? Note: two are mentioned in this very letter written by James (1:3; 5:11).

"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

11. What is promised to those who are rich in faith in verse 5 (See 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 possibly be making a distinction with godly motives. What would that be according verse 8?

A MODERN DAY EXAMPLE

Scenario 1: You are a sound technician who has 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. Knowing that you would love to talk to your former boss about getting re-hired, you invite Mr. Sony to lunch after second service. You do this even though you have never invited a first time guest before. After lunch you wait for the perfect moment to bring up the subject of your employment.

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. The second thought can be found in verse 13 and in Matthew 18:21-35. What should the character of every saved person include?

"_____ triumphs over _____."

APPLICATION

Examine your thought life when you see someone very different than you. What is the first thought that pops into your mind? Is it negative? Do you verbalize this in front of your spouse and/or children? Is this not doing the same as James 2 and 1 Samuel 16:7 calls attention to? If you find this to be true of you, how can you be applying God's Word in this area?

This week: Reach out to someone "out of your comfort zone" and get to know this person. Write down 5 questions on an index card that you could ask. (No, you don't have to read off the card while you are talking to her! 😊)