

## **The first lesson is from James 2:1-13 (page 1011 in the Pew Bible)**

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. <sup>2</sup> For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, <sup>3</sup> and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," <sup>4</sup> have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. <sup>9</sup> But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup> So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

## **Psalm 16 (page 453 in the Pew Bible)**

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup> I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;  
I have no good apart from you."

<sup>3</sup> As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,  
in whom is all my delight.

<sup>4</sup> The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;  
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
or take their names on my lips.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.

<sup>6</sup> The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

<sup>7</sup> I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.

<sup>8</sup> I have set the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;  
my flesh also dwells secure.

<sup>10</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.

**The Gospel reading is from Luke, Chapter 6 verses 31 - 36  
(page 862 in the Pew Bible)**

<sup>31</sup> And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

<sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.