

Loving people in the trials

James 2:1-8

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. 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, 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,” have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 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?

But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the

honorable name by which you were called?

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture,

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

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1. Look out for wrong value judgments

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ,

James 2:1

One of the attributes of God

“Impartiality” - Deut. 10:17

Do not judge by appearances, but judge with righteous judgment.

Jn. 7:24

Jesus –

- born in “humble” circumstances in Bethlehem
- raised in a “humble” community in Nazareth
- lived in a “humble” culture in Galilee
- friends with the “humble” class of people

The early church

- . Equality for all - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave or free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:28
- . Sharing with any in need – Acts 2:44-45
- . Took care of the Greek widows – Acts 6
- . No sin to be wealthy – Joseph of Arimathea, Mary and Martha, Ethiopian eunuch, Cornelius, Lydia

“...the Lord of glory.”

For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly... (2)

“Goldfingered” – numerous rings

And a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in... (2)

And if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place... (3)

While you say to the poor man – “You stand over there or sit down at my feet...”

Have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? (4)

Man looks on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the heart. 1 Sam. 16:7b

2. Look to be rich in faith.

Listen my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, James 2:5

Rich in faith?

. Walking by faith not sight.
2 Cor. 5:7

. Trusting in the Lord not self

Prov. 3:5-6

. Standing on the promises not physical resources. 2

Peter 1:4

. Loving the Lord not the things of this world. 1 Jn.

2:15-17

. Loving the “least of these”

Matt. 25:40

“Spiritual” Bank Account

Rich or Poor?

“The only way to get our values right is to see things not in the light of time, but in the light of eternity.”

William Barclay

... which He has promised to those who love Him?

“We cannot help conforming ourselves to what we love”

St. Francis de Sales

But you have dishonored

the poor man (2:6)

Are not the rich the ones who oppress you and the ones who drag you into court?

Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

Jesus is –

- . Who I follow
- . Who I praise
- . Who I obey
- . Who I worship

3. Look for ways to love your neighbor

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture...

James 2:8

You shall love your neighbor...

By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

1 Jn. 3:16

Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. James 2:18

God helps those who help themselves?

God helps those who help others!

“The measure of a man or a woman –
Not how many men serve you, but how many men you
serve.”

D. L. Moody

As yourself...

. It is basic human nature to care
for yourself – Eph.5:29

. Christ’s command – Love as I have loved you. Jn. 13:34

. Early church - In humility count others more significant
than yourselves. Phil. 2:3

“Our only business is to love and delight ourselves in
God.”

Brother Lawrence

His love filling us

His love flowing through us.

Great power in loving others!

... you are doing well

In the eyes of Jesus –

how are you doing?

To the extent that you did it to

one of these brothers of mine –

“the least of these” -
you did it to Me.
Matt. 25:40

From King Jesus –
“Well done! Good and
faithful servant.”
Matt. 25:21