



“Drawing From the Well”

“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

Womens Ministry of Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship

JAMES 2:1-13

Lesson 6

*“The Law cannot give anyone an inheritance.
It is not possible through the keeping of the Law to enter into the inheritance of God,
the ‘rest’, that we have through faith in Jesus Christ.”*

Warren Wiersbe

DAY ONE: Review & Overview

1. What impacted you the most last week in the overview or study of **James 1:16-27**?
2. Why is the application of God’s Word to our life (*being doers of the Word*) so essential?
3. What does **Proverbs 10:17** say about the person that refuses to obey the Word of God?
4. Prayerfully read **James 2:1-13** asking yourself “*who, what, where, when, why and how?*” Then go back and mark the paragraph divisions in this week’s study as follows. Briefly give a title to each segment.
 - a. **James 2:1-4**
 - b. **James 2:5-7**
 - c. **James 2:8-13**
5. In the passage we are studying this week we’ll be dealing with relationships between believers. Apparently this was a problem in the churches and is a problem among some believers now. *The Lord of Glory*, Jesus indwells every believer and it is *His* glory, *His* presence within each believer that we are to relate to. Outward appearance, education, status, or financial worth should not decide our acceptance or cause our rejection of believers or result in favoritism or partiality. Print from **James 2:1** what believers are *not* to do.
6. What do the following verses say about *the Lord of Glory*:
 - a. **Psalm 24:7-10**
 - b. **Hebrews 1:1-4**

*“You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created.”
Revelation 4:11*

DAY TWO: James 2:1-4

This passage begins a new section in James, a discussion of various temptations and trials that are common to all believers. There are certain temptations and trials that are constantly confronting us. One of the strongest is that of showing partiality or favoritism, of discriminating against people.

1. Prayerfully read **James 2:1-4**. How does Peter address those he is writing to?
 - a. What did Peter command them *not* to do in **verse 1**?

2. In **verses 2-4** Peter explains what he means. What one word does James use to evaluate the behavior of the believers towards the rich man and the poor man according to **James 2:4**?
 - a. What do the following verses have to say about being a respecter of persons?
 - 1) **Leviticus 19:15-16**

 - 2) **John 7:24**

 - 3) **1 Timothy 5:21**

 - b. What example does God set forth on this subject in light of the following scriptures?
 - 1) **1 Peter 1:17-23**

 - 2) **Job 34:19**

3. The prophet Samuel mourned the death of King Saul. Read **1 Samuel 16:1-13** and record how David was chosen.
 - a. What would have happened if Samuel had chosen by the *outward appearance*?

4. In what way do you think society's value system affects this kind of behavior?
 - a. Maybe you have shown partiality and God has convicted your heart. Or maybe you have been the victim of others showing partiality. Give an example of partiality and share with your group.

 - b. If you have been a victim, ask God to heal your hurt and pray for the one who hurt you.

“Jesus Christ is the Lord who rules and reigns in glory, in the majesty and perfection, dominion and power of God Himself. His glory is so majestic that the appearance of man fades into total oblivion—just utter nothingness—before Him. Therefore, any person who stands before Him is not thinking of his own worth and preference, but of the Lord’s glory. The person who believes and worships the Lord of glory, no matter his status, realizes that he is as all men, as nothing. Therefore, he does not elevate himself or anyone else above other people, no matter how poor and lowly they may be.” *The WORDSearch Commentary*

DAY THREE: James 2:5-7

1. This issue of partiality is serious and it must be dealt with. Because James wants to assure these believers of his love for them, how does he address them in **verse 5**?
 - a. According to **verse 5**, why are we not to show partiality to the rich?
 - b. How does **1 Corinthians 1:26-31** parallel **James 2:5-7**?
 - c. In light of these verses, explain in your own words why God did not choose the wealthy, the beautiful and wonderful things of this world. (Although His choice certainly does not *exclude* these things).

2. Contrast the character and behavior of the rich men depicted in **James 2:6-7** with that of the despised and dishonored poor of **James 2:5** in the chart below. Record the actions of the rich men and God.

James 2:5 – The poor	James 2:6-7 – The wealthy

- a. Pause and reflect on this contrast. What would cause a Christian to esteem and show partiality to these tyrannical, oppressive, blasphemers over the worthy name by which Christians are called?

3. When Jesus was asked by the rich young ruler “*how to inherit eternal life*” He answered in **Matthew 19:16-29**? Record where Jesus placed importance.

4. Sometimes people experience a reverse snobbery in the body where the poor discriminate against the wealthy. How does **Galatians 3:26-28** understood, embraced, and put into practice prevent any favoritism based on outward circumstances or appearance?

5. Summarize what you have learned so far about respect of persons.

DAY FOUR: James 2:8-11

1. Prayerfully read **James 2:8-11**.
 - a. According to **Leviticus 19:18** what is the *royal law* stated in the Old Testament?
 - b. Record what Jesus says in **Mark 12:28-33** about this *royal law*.
 - c. According to **James 2:8**, what does James say about those who love one another?
2. According to **James 2:9**, what do we do if we show partiality?
 - a. Why is this so according to **James 2:10-11**?
3. We have tendencies to categorize sin according to the degree of our own standard. We must understand that the Law is broken just as severely when we fail to obey the command to love others, as it is when we fail to obey the command *not to kill*. Comment on this concept.
4. What does **1 Samuel 12:15** say?
5. Remember that it is not what we believe or feel...we take God at His Word...that is the final authority. Read **James 2:10-11** in light of the Law as being the expression of God's character and will. When we violate one of God's commandments, we are violating God's will for us and thus the whole law is violated. How do these scriptures help you to fulfill *the royal law*?
 - a. **Romans 13:8-10**
 - b. **Galatians 5:13-15**
6. Our behavior is a choice. When we sin, whether it is by treating someone badly, or by doing something that we think is a personal sin that no one will ever find out about, what principle stands true according to **Galatians 6:7-10**?
 - a. What is the only answer according to **Galatians 5:16**? Write this verse here and memorize it!

“Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me”

DAY FIVE: James 2:12-13

1. Prayerfully read **James 2:12-13**. Then read the translation below.

“Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment”. *Selah!* (Pause and think about this)

- a. How are we to speak and act according to **James 2:12b**?
- b. The judgment spoken of in these verses do not refer to the judgment of sinners. James is speaking to believers about standing before the judgment seat of Christ (Bema seat). We may be slipshod in our obedience to *the royal law* around people, but the sense of being accountable to the Lord for the way we relate to other people ought to have a profound affect on the way we speak and act toward them. How does this awareness of accountability affect you?
2. Who did Jesus say was “blessed” in **Matthew 5:7**?
- a. What shall they obtain?
3. What concept did Jesus convey in **Matthew 6:14-15** that parallels **James 2:12-13**?
- a. How about **Matthew 18:35**?
4. Our God is a merciful God as we see throughout Scripture. Look up the definition and record your findings here:
- a. Old Testament – *Mercy* (#2617) – Hebrew
- b. New Testament - *Mercy* (#1656) - Greek
5. What do we learn about mercy in the following verses?
- a. **Deuteronomy 5:10**
- b. **1Chronicles 16:34**
- c. **Psalm 25:10**
- d. **Psalm 33:18**
- e. **Psalm 62:12**
- f. **Psalm 86:5**

- g. **Micah 6:8**
 - h. **Micah 7:18-19**
 - i. If you find any others that speak to your heart write them here and share with your group.
6. Please spend some quiet time reflecting on the phrase “*mercy triumphs over judgment.*”
- a. Why is it personally a blessing to you to know that *mercy triumphs over judgment*?
 - b. How does this fact about mercy help to keep you from showing favoritism or partiality?
7. Have you gleaned any *new* insight from your study this week? If so, share with your group! Don’t forget to highlight those questions, verses, or quotes that ministered to you the most.

*“Holy God make me holy
Merciful God give me a merciful heart
Lover of souls help me to love them too
So I can be more like You.”*