



THE SIN OF FAVORITISM

PART 2

 LIVING WORD

“⁵Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?”

JAMES 2:5-9

“⁷Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? ⁸If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

JAMES 2:5-9

Even as **Christians**, we sometimes carry
with us some form of **WORLDLINESS** and that
worldliness is seen in our **TREATMENT** of our **LESS**
FORTUNATE brethren.

DISCRIMINATION and **FAVORITISM** have no
place in the body of Christ.

James minces no words in tackling this issue.

1

GOD'S TREATMENT vs. BELIEVER'S TREATMENT OF THE POOR MAN

- (a) God's election of the POOR
- (b) The believers' rejection of the POOR

2

THE UNBELIEVING RICH MAN'S TREATMENT OF THE BELIEVERS

- (a) **Oppression and Suing in court**
- (b) **Blasphemy of the Christian name**



3

THE PROPER AND IMPROPER TREATMENT OF ALL MEN

- (a) The **proper treatment** of all men
- (b) The sin and indictment of **preferential treatment**

1

GOD'S TREATMENT vs. BELIEVER'S TREATMENT OF THE POOR MAN

- (a) God's election of the POOR
- (b) The believers' rejection of the POOR



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1

GOD'S TREATMENT vs. BELIEVER'S TREATMENT OF THE POOR MAN

(a) God's election of the POOR

The word "*listen*" here calls attention to something very important that James had to say to believers.

"My beloved brethren" indicates WHO the AUDIENCE James was talking to.

1

GOD'S TREATMENT vs. BELIEVER'S TREATMENT OF THE POOR MAN

(a) God's election of the POOR

God honors the poor man, and the way that this is sometimes manifested is by electing him or "choosing" him into His kingdom. This makes them "RICH" IN FAITH AND "HEIRS" of the kingdom. The irony here is that while the believers saw their poor brothers as "poor", **God sees them as WEALTHY because they are SONS and DAUGHTERS of the King of kings.**



1

GOD'S TREATMENT vs. BELIEVER'S TREATMENT OF THE POOR MAN

(a) God's election of the POOR

It is interesting to note that Church history records that there have been more poor people who have joined themselves to the church as compared to the rich.

1

GOD'S TREATMENT vs. BELIEVER'S TREATMENT OF THE POOR MAN

(a) God's election of the POOR

NOTE: Consider this situation as a specific time and a specific dealing of God at the time of James' writing. The ELECTION of the POOR should not be taken as a general rule for all times and all seasons.

Otherwise, it will appear that God is anti-rich.
It is not that God anti-rich but that the rich at times are ANTI-GOD.

“¹⁶And someone came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?” ¹⁷And He said to him, “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is *only* One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸*Then* he said to Him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not commit murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; ¹⁹Honor your father and mother; and You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

MATTHEW 19:16-24



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²⁰The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?”
²¹Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be complete, go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” ²²But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property. ²³And Jesus said to His disciples, “Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴“Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

MATTHEW 19:16-24

“⁵Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?”

[JAMES 2:5-9]



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GOD'S TREATMENT vs. BELIEVER'S TREATMENT OF THE POOR MAN

(b) The believer's rejection of the poor

Whereas God elected the poor, the believers rejected the man whom God greatly honors. The believers of that time had REJECTED their poorer brothers who were already part of God's family.

NOTE: Once again, GOD IS NOT ANTI-RICH. He is against our PREFERRING the rich over the poor.

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[JAMES 2:5-9]

“7Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?” ⁸If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

JAMES 2:5-9



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2

THE UNBELIEVING RICH MAN'S TREATMENT OF THE BELIEVERS

(a) Oppression and Suing in Court

“⁵Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?””

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2

THE UNBELIEVING RICH MAN'S TREATMENT OF THE BELIEVERS

(a) Oppression and Suing in Court

These rich UNBELIEVERS had oppressed them and dragged them into courts.

NOTE: This is talking of a specific time and a specific situation by the rich of that time. This is not intended to be a truth of all rich people for all time.



2

THE UNBELIEVING RICH MAN'S TREATMENT OF THE BELIEVERS

(b) Blasphemy of the Christian name

“7Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?” ⁸If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

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THE UNBELIEVING RICH MAN'S TREATMENT OF THE BELIEVERS

(b) Blasphemy of the Christian name

It is IRONICAL that the believers were giving PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT to the UNBELIEVING RICH people who were WICKED, and YET at the same time DESPISING their POOR FELLOW BELIEVERS.

The point of James is not that the RICH should be treated lesser than the poor, but they are to be given EQUAL treatment.



3

THE PROPER AND IMPROPER TREATMENT OF ALL MEN



“⁷Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? ⁸If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

〔 JAMES 2:5-9 〕



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3

THE PROPER AND IMPROPER TREATMENT OF ALL MEN

(a) The proper treatment of all men

This verse is to be taken in relation to ALL MEN, but most especially the POOR in this context. We are to love our NEIGHBOR [IN THIS CASE TO BE TAKEN AS MEANING ESPECIALLY THE POOR] as OURSELVES.

3

THE PROPER AND IMPROPER TREATMENT OF ALL MEN

(a) The proper treatment of all men

THIS PROPER TREATMENT OF ALL MEN FINDS
APPROVAL WITH GOD.

“They do
not truly
love who
do not
show their
love.”

Shake

speare



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THE PROPER AND IMPROPER TREATMENT OF ALL MEN

(b) The sin and indictment of preferential treatment

“⁷Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? ⁸If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

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THE PROPER AND IMPROPER TREATMENT OF ALL MEN

(b) The sin and indictment of preferential treatment

PARTIALITY IS A SIN, and therefore in relation to the laws of God, we are SINNERS.

FAVORITISM is also a sign a **LACK OF LOVE**, based on the context of “loving our neighbors as we love ourselves”.

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT BRINGS AN INDICTMENT OF GUILT.

The way to the path of
love [is through the]
path of
empathy.



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