

Bible Study Handout: James 2:1-13 (NKJV)

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for gathering us together to study Your Word. We ask for wisdom and understanding as we read James 2:1-13. Help us to apply these teachings in our daily lives and to reflect Your love and mercy to others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Passage: James 2:1-13 (NKJV)

1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.
2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes,
3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool,"
4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?
5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?
6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?
7 Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?
8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well;
9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.
10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.
11 For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.
12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.
13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does James warn against in verse 1? How does this apply to our lives today?
2. In verses 2-4, James describes a scenario of favoritism. Have you ever witnessed or experienced favoritism in a church or social setting? How did it make you feel?
3. According to verse 5, whom does God choose to be rich in faith? What does this teach us about God's values?
4. How do verses 8-9 connect to the commandment to love our neighbor? Why is showing partiality considered a sin?
5. In verses 12-13, James talks about mercy triumphing over judgment. How can we show mercy in our daily interactions with others?

6. How does this passage challenge the way we treat people from different backgrounds, social statuses, or appearances?

Fill-in-the-Blank Questions:

1. “My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of _____, with partiality.” (James 2:1)
2. “For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a _____ man in filthy clothes.” (James 2:2)
3. “But you have dishonored the _____. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?” (James 2:6)
4. “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your _____ as yourself,’ you do well.” (James 2:8)
5. “For judgment is without _____ to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.” (James 2:13)

Application:

- How can you practice showing love and mercy to those who are often overlooked?
- What steps can you take to avoid favoritism in your personal life and within your church community?
- Pray and ask God to help you see people through His eyes and to treat them with fairness and love.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank You for Your Word that teaches us how to love without partiality. Help us to be merciful as You are merciful and to see all people through Your eyes. May we reflect Your love and grace in all our interactions. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.