

James 2:9 “But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.”

C. Express the love of Jesus to everyone.

Ephesians 5:1 “Be imitators of God therefore, as dearly loved children.^[2] and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Beware of Favoritism!

James 2:1-13

Lesson #4

5/19/24

Job 34:19 “Who shows no partiality to princes and does not favor the rich over the poor, for they are all the work of His hands?”

2 Chronicles 19:7 “Now let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.”

Acts 10:34 “Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism.^[35] but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right.”

1 Timothy 5:21b “... do nothing out of favoritism.”

I. We are cautioned about favoritism.

A. James commanded us not to show favoritism.

James 2:1 “My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don’t show favoritism.”

Romans 2:11 “God does not show favoritism.”

Ephesians 6:9 “And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their Master and yours in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.”

James 2:1 (Amplified) My fellow believers, do not practice your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of partiality [toward people—show no favoritism, no prejudice, and no snobbery].

James 2:1 “My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?”

B. James called our attention to some examples of favoritism.

1. The particular attire of the rich person versus the poor.

James 2:2 “Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in.”

2. The preferential treatment of the rich versus the poor.

James 2:3 “If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,”

3. James confronted those who showed favoritism.

James 2:4 “Have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?”

II. We are challenged to avoid favoritism.

A. The poor believers are spiritually rich.

James 2:5 “Listen, my dear brothers. Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom He promised those who love Him?”

2 Corinthians 6:10b “... poor, yet making many rich, having nothing, and yet possessing everything.”

Ephesians 1:3 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

B. The poor believers were insulted by favoritism.

James 2:6a “But you have insulted the poor”

1. The rich have exploited the poor.

James 2:6b “... Is it not the rich who are exploiting you?”

2. The rich have dragged the poor to court.

James 2:6c “... Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?”

3. The rich slandered the noble name of Christ.

James 2:7 “Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of Him to Whom you belong?”

III. We are called upon to show God’s love and not favoritism.

A. James encouraged these believers to keep the royal law.

James 2:8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scriptures, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.”

B. James explained to them that favoritism breaks the royal law.

James 2:9 “But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.”

James 2:10 “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

James 2:11 “For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not murder, you have become a lawbreaker.”

C. James reminds them their works will be evaluated in the future.

James 2:12 “Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,”

James 2:13 “Because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

How can we apply this passage to our life?

A. Evaluate your life and look for any traces of favoritism.

Psalms 139:23 “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

B. Eliminate favoritism in your life.