

Life Group Study Guide

October 11, 2020

James 2:1-13,
Colossians 3:10-13, Luke 10:25-37

James 2:1-13

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. **2** 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, **3** 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," **4** have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** 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? **6** But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? **7** Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. **9** But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. **11** For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

We are in week 2 of our "Why Life Matters?" series. Last week we discussed mankind's value that is derived from being made in the image of a perfect, personal creator. This week, we will be discussing some new 'house rules' that Christians should live by as we remember that people are made in the image of God.

Why is mankind's value, derived from being made in the image a God, so foundational to all of life?

Thinking about our world today, what constructs, issues, decisions... does this Biblical Worldview affect?

Let's take a deeper look at how mankind's value influences our view of others.

FAVORITISM FORBIDDEN

In **James 2:1-3**, James tells the Christians, in the church of Jerusalem, to show no partiality (favoritism) in the church. The example of favoritism James provides is giving preference to someone who appears wealthy.

What groups or people in our society are shown favoritism?

In what ways does our society show partiality toward these groups or people?

We all tend to have preferences rooted in superficial attributes. What are some superficial ways you have passed judgment on someone else?

In **James 2:4**, what kind of judges does he tell the church they have become when they judge this way?

12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. **13** For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Colossians 3:10-13

10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. **11** Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Luke 10:25-37

25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" **26** He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" **27** And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." **28** And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

In **James 2:5**, the passage references that God chose those financially poor to be "...rich in faith and inherit the Kingdom..." Most Christians throughout world history have been poor.

What do you think is the correlation between being poor and rich in faith?

Does this mean we should all be poor? What is it that James is wanting us to be aware of?

In **James 2:5-7**, James points out the irony of favoritism. Many of the wealthy that were shown favoritism also oppressed those that favored them.

Have you ever shown favoritism for superficial reasons to someone who also mistreated you?

Why, what was your motive?

James 2:8-9 refers to the 'royal law' according to Scripture. This is a reference to **Leviticus 19:18** which states: *"You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."*

How have you seen others affected by your choice to live out this Biblical Worldview?

Has living this way opened doors to the Gospel? How?

THE GOSPEL OVERRIDES OUR DIFFERENCES

Read **Colossians 3:10-13**

If the Gospel makes who we are in Christ the most important thing about us, what kind of traits should diminish among God's people (**v. 11**)?

How does forgiveness play an important role in moving beyond our differences and making a way for the Gospel (**v.13**)?

29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” **30** Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. **31** Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. **32** So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. **34** He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. **35** And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ **36** Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” **37** He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

LOVE BEYOND YOUR COMFORT ZONE

Read **Luke 10:30-37** as the perfect illustration of the ‘Royal Law’ given by Jesus.

How did the Good Samaritan fulfill the royal law?

Do you find this example challenging? Explain.

Thinking through your week ahead, in what circumstances will you apply this Biblical Worldview?