



JAMES AND JUDE

Give Me Your Eyes

James 2:1-13

A. True Religion: 3 Litmus Tests [1:26-27]

1] Commitment to Self-Control [1:26]

Controlling the Tongue

[Psalm 34:13; Proverbs 18:21]

2] Active Compassion [1:27a]

Caring for the Poor [Proverbs 14:31]

3] Pursuit of Holiness [1:27b]

Commitment to Purity [2 Peter 3:14b]

B. Case Study: Favoritism (2:1-7)

1] Motivation - Holding the Faith [2:1]

2] Four Ugly Moments [2:2-7]

a. Humiliation [Lack of self-control]

b. Worldly Response [Prejudice]

c. Mistreatment [Poor]

d. Misappropriated Priorities

C. Authority: Jesus and the Royal Law (2:8-13)

1] Right/Wrong Response - Royal Law [2:8-9]

2] Reality of Sin [2:10-11]

3] Application - Speak and So Act . . . [2:12]

Mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 1:26-27 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

James 2:1-7 [Declaration] My brothers, show no partiality as you hold **[echete -possess]** the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

[Illustration] 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?

James 2:8-13 [Application] ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," **[Matt 19:19; 22:39; Luke 10:26]** 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. 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.

Discussion Questions:

1] Why is favoritism so destructive in the church?

2] Read James 2:1-7. What should be our motivation to reject favoritism, and what response from the man in the illustration can you relate to most when you find yourself showing favoritism in a situation?

3] Read James 2:8-13. Imagine that you are in the congregation where this letter is being read. How do you feel? How would you respond to these two newcomers?

4] Pray asking God to forgive you for the times you have shown partiality, and thank Him for the fact that He shows complete impartiality in His dealings with us. [Abide]