

Faith ALIVE!

A study in the Book of James Lesson Three

**Gold River Calvary Chapel
Women's Bible Fellowship**

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A Study in the Book of JAMES

Gold River Calvary Chapel Women's Ministry

Lesson Three

James 2:1-13

Summary: *This week we will learn how to be “doers” of the “royal law.”*

Step One: Read the Word

“In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:3 (CSB)

This study uses the English Standard Version Bible translation (ESV), which is provided for you in each lesson in Step One. Please use that version to fill in blanks or answer questions, but you are encouraged to read as many translations as you like in order to get a fuller understanding of the scripture.

In Step One, try to determine the “who, what, where, when or how” of the passage. Look for words that are repeated often, and circle any key words and underline phrases that stick out to you. Use the column to the right to jot down any notes, scripture references, or questions you might have.

Remember to always pray before you read God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to open the scripture to your understanding.

Complete Step One by reading and marking up James 2:1-13, below, and answering the questions that follow.

James 2:1-13

English Standard Version

The Sin of Partiality

¹ 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. 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.

Step 1 Questions:

1. See verses 2:1-7. What problem is James addressing in the early church? What does “partiality” mean?
2. In a couple of sentences, summarize the point James is making in verses 8-11.
3. What should be our standard for our words and actions according to verse 12?
3. What triumphs over judgment? (Verse 13)

Step 2: Consider the Word

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” Colossians 3:16 (CSB)

Re-read James 2:1-13 and answer the questions below. (Remember to use the English Standard Version (ESV) translation provided in Step One to answer).

1. In verses 1-5 James addressed the partiality, or favoritism, shown the wealthy when they attended church services.
 - a. What assumption(s) do people often make about the wealthy versus the poor?
 - b. Do you think the problem of favoritism is still a problem in the church today? Explain.
 - c. When we show favoritism or make distinctions between our brothers and sisters on the basis of wealth, fame, popularity, social status, race or anything else, what does James say we are acting like? (Verse 3)
 - d. Read Matthew 19:24.

What does Jesus tell us about the wealthy?

Why do you think Jesus says this?

(Question 1 cont.)

e. In what way are all believers, wealthy or poor, considered rich? (v. 5)

f. If all things we receive come from our Heavenly Father (John 3:27), what do any of us, rich or poor, have to boast in according to Jeremiah 9:23-24?

2. See verses 8 and 9.

(a) Why do you think James called loving one's neighbor as oneself the "royal law" according to scripture? Who instituted this law? (See Leviticus 19:18 and Mark 12:29-31)

(b) In what ways does partiality violate the royal law?

3. According to verse 12, we are no longer under the law of Moses, but another law. What is it?

Are we free to act or speak anyway we like?

How should the royal law guide our speech and actions?

Memory Verse: “⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture,
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’, you are doing well.” (James 2:8)

Write the memory verse down below:

Step 3: Walk in the Word

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ...” Philippians 1:27 (ESV)

Re-read James 2:1-13 and answer the questions below:

1. Has the Holy Spirit revealed any favoritism or value judgment you may be making between people, perhaps without even realizing it? If so, ask the Holy Spirit to continue to bring that partiality to mind when it occurs so you can repent and obey the Royal Law.
2. How has mercy triumphed over judgement in your own life?
3. Think of a time when you chose to be merciful rather than judge someone else. Describe it below. Who do you look like when you do this?

Write the memory verse below:

Memory Verse: ⁴⁸ If you really fulfill the _____ law according to the
_____, 'You shall love your neighbor as _____',
you are doing _____." (James 2:8)

What lesson or truth meant the most to you this week?

Journal a prayer below, thanking God for that truth.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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