



## The Book of James: Chapter 2:1-7

- **PRAYER:** Father, reveal the depth and understanding of Your Word to us tonight!

New Living Translation (NLT)	English Standard Version (ESV)	Passion Translation (PAS)
<p><sup>1</sup> 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?</p> <p><sup>2</sup> For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. <sup>3</sup> If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, “You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor”—well, <sup>4</sup> doesn’t this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?</p> <p><sup>5</sup> Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn’t God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren’t they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you dishonor the poor! Isn’t it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Aren’t they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear? (James 2:1–7 NLT-SE)</p>	<p><sup>1</sup> My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> 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, <sup>3</sup> 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,” <sup>4</sup> have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?</p> <p><sup>5</sup> 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? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? (James 2:1–7 ESV)</p>	<p><sup>1</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, fellow believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ —how could we say that we have faith in him and yet we favor one group of people above another?</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Suppose an influential man comes into your worship meeting wearing gold rings and expensive clothing, and also a homeless man in shabby clothes comes in. <sup>3</sup> If you show special attention to the rich man in expensive clothes and say, “Here’s a seat of honor for you right up front!” but you turn and say to the poor beggar dressed in rags, “You can stand over here,” or “Sit over there on the floor in the back,” <sup>4</sup> then you’ve demonstrated gross prejudice among yourselves and used evil standards of judgment!</p> <p><sup>5</sup> So listen carefully, my dear brothers and sisters, hasn’t God chosen the poor in the world’s eyes to be those who are rich in faith? And won’t they be the heirs of the kingdom-realm he promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But yet you insult and shun the poor in your efforts to impress the rich! Isn’t it the wealthy who exploit you and drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Aren’t they the very ones who blaspheme the beautiful name of the One you now belong to? (James 1:19–27 PAS)</p>

### - KEY WORDS:

- **Partiality** (v. 1)
  - GK G4721 | S G4382 *prosopolepsia* 4x
  - respect of persons, partiality, Rom. 2:11; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25; Jas. 2:1\*
- **Shabby** (v. 2)
  - GK G4865 | S G4508 *rhyparos* 2x
  - filthy, squalid, sordid, dirty, Jas. 2:2; met. defiled, polluted, Rev. 22:11\*

- **Attention** (v. 3)
  - GK G2098 | S G1914 *epiblepo* 3x
  - to look upon; to regard with partiality, Jas. 2:3; to regard with kindness and favor, Lk. 1:48; 9:38\*
- **Distinctions** (v. 4)
  - GK G1359 | S G1252 *diakrino* 19x
  - to separate, sever; to make a distinction or difference, Acts 15:9; 1 Cor. 11:29; to make to differ, distinguish, prefer, confer a superiority, 1 Cor. 4:7; to examine, scrutinize, estimate, 1 Cor. 11:31; 14:29; to discern, discriminate, Mt. 16:3; to judge, to decide a cause, 1 Cor. 6:5; to dispute, contend, Acts 11:2; Jude 9; to make a distinction mentally, Jas. 2:4; Jude 22; in NT to hesitate, be in doubt, doubt, Mt. 21:21; Mk. 11:23 ~ distinguish; doubt; evaluate; judge; waver.
- **Judges** (v. 4)
  - GK G3216 | S G2923 *krites* 19x
  - a judge, Mt. 5:25; from the Hebrew, a magistrate, ruler, Acts 13:20; 24:10 ~ judge.
- **Poor** (v. 5)
  - GK G4777 | S G4434 *ptochos* 34x
  - reduced to beggary, mendicant; poor, indigent, Mt. 19:21; 26:9, 11; met. spiritually poor, Rev. 3:17; by impl. a person of low condition, Mt. 11:4; Lk. 4:18; 7:22; met. beggarly, sorry, Gal. 4:9; met. lowly, Mt. 5:3; Lk. 6:20 ~ poor.
- **Heirs** (v. 5)
  - GK G3101 | S G2818 *kleronomos* 15x
  - an heir, Mt. 21:38; Gal. 4:1; a possessor, Rom. 4:13; Heb. 11:7; Jas. 2:5 ~ heir.
- **Oppress** (v. 6)
  - GK G2872 | S G2616 *katadynasteuo* 2x
  - to tyrannize over, oppress, exploit, Acts 10:38; Jas. 2:6\*
- **Blaspheme** (v. 7)
  - GK G1059 | S G987 *blasphemeo* 34x
  - to defame, revile, slander, Mt. 27:39; to speak of God or divine things in terms of impious irreverence, to blaspheme, Mt. 9:3; 26:65 ~ blaspheme; insult; revile; slander.

## - DISCRIMINATION...

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality...I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word. ~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Be not proud of race, face, place, or grace. ~ Charles Spurgeon

All human beings bear God's image and must be respected for what each person is. Therefore, no external description of one's being, whether based on race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, can properly be used as the basis for either rejection or discrimination. ~ Bishop John Shelby Spong

The marvel of marvels is not that God, in His infinite love, has not elected all this guilty race to be saved, but that He has elected any. ~ B.B. Warfield

In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. ~ Col 3:11 NLT-SE

– **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

- “Partiality” is alive and well in the church! When you look at the way we sometimes treat people who are different than us (dress, age, political leanings, worship style, tattoos and piercings, etc.), what do you think these bias’ are rooted in? Why do people who look different make us so darned uncomfortable?
- What is it that keeps us from treating people like Jesus treated people?
- Give a personal example of when you recently found yourself judging someone who was different than you. How did your behavior change because this person was in your path? What do you now wish you had done differently?
- Have you ever been the victim of discrimination? How did you respond to people who didn’t even know you treating you poorly? What emotions did that encounter stir in you?
- Choosing to honor people is a powerful way to bring down walls of offense that may have been in their lives for years, but have nothing to do with you, personally. What are some ways you can honor people that are different than you?