

## Rich in Faith

[Jas 2:1-7 ESV] 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?

### I. Intro

- A. Partiality has no place
- B. The outward presentation of power or wealth that is revered among men, is in contrast to what is revered in the faith.
- C. God granted big faith to those who have little, and we should respect that as believers.
- D. Remember:
  1. Wealth is not evil, wealth is a tool for the gospel, granted to men.
  2. With much wealth comes much opportunity to bless.
  3. Poverty is also not glorified in and of itself, but yet a circumstance demanding faith in God.

### II. Text

- A. Verse 5:
  1. Listen, my beloved brothers
  2. Has not God chosen
  3. Poor in the world, rich in faith
  4. Heirs of the promised kingdom
- B. Verse 6:
  1. But you have dishonored the poor man
  2. While the rich man oppresses you
- C. Verse 7:
  1. The actions of those being revered for their wealth are dishonoring to the Lord
  2. Blaspheme: to speak in a way that shows irreverence for God or something sacred

### III. Points

- A. The perceived poverty and the reality of riches
  1. Genuine wealth is not measured by monetary devices
  2. The RICHNESS OF GOD:
    - a) In mercy: [Eph 2:4-5 ESV] 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved—
    - b) In Grace: [Eph 1:7 ESV] 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
    - c) In Kindness: [Rom 2:4 ESV] 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?
    - d) His Glory: [Rom 9:23 ESV] 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—
    - e) Unsearchable: [Eph 3:8 ESV] 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

- f) Glory of the Mystery: [Col 1:27 ESV] 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
  - g) In good works: [1Ti 6:17-19 ESV] 17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.
  - h) In Christ: [2Co 8:9 ESV] 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.
3. Real wealth is found in relationship with Christ, and only found in relationship with Christ.
  4. Our view of people:
    - a) All have bear the fingerprint of God, all life is worthy of honor
    - b) Those who are in the faith should not be judged more or less valuable based upon outward appearances or wealth.
    - c) All have a responsibility to fulfill.
- B. The honor for people reflects reverence for God
1. [Mat 22:34-40 ESV] 34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
  2. Two truths that cannot be separated:
    - a) Love God, Love People
    - b) Honor God, Honor People
    - c) Worship God, Serve people
  3. When we treat people with dignity and respect, we honor God.
  4. [Mat 25:31-46 ESV] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' 45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these,

you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

C. The warnings of wealth and the mindset of worship

1. Since, by global standards we are all wealthy, let us be reminded
2. [Mat 19:23-26 ESV] 23 And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
3. Let us not allow our faith to be in our wealth, but in our God.
4. Let us do purposeful ministry with our resources, it is the reason we have been blessed in such a way.

IV. Close