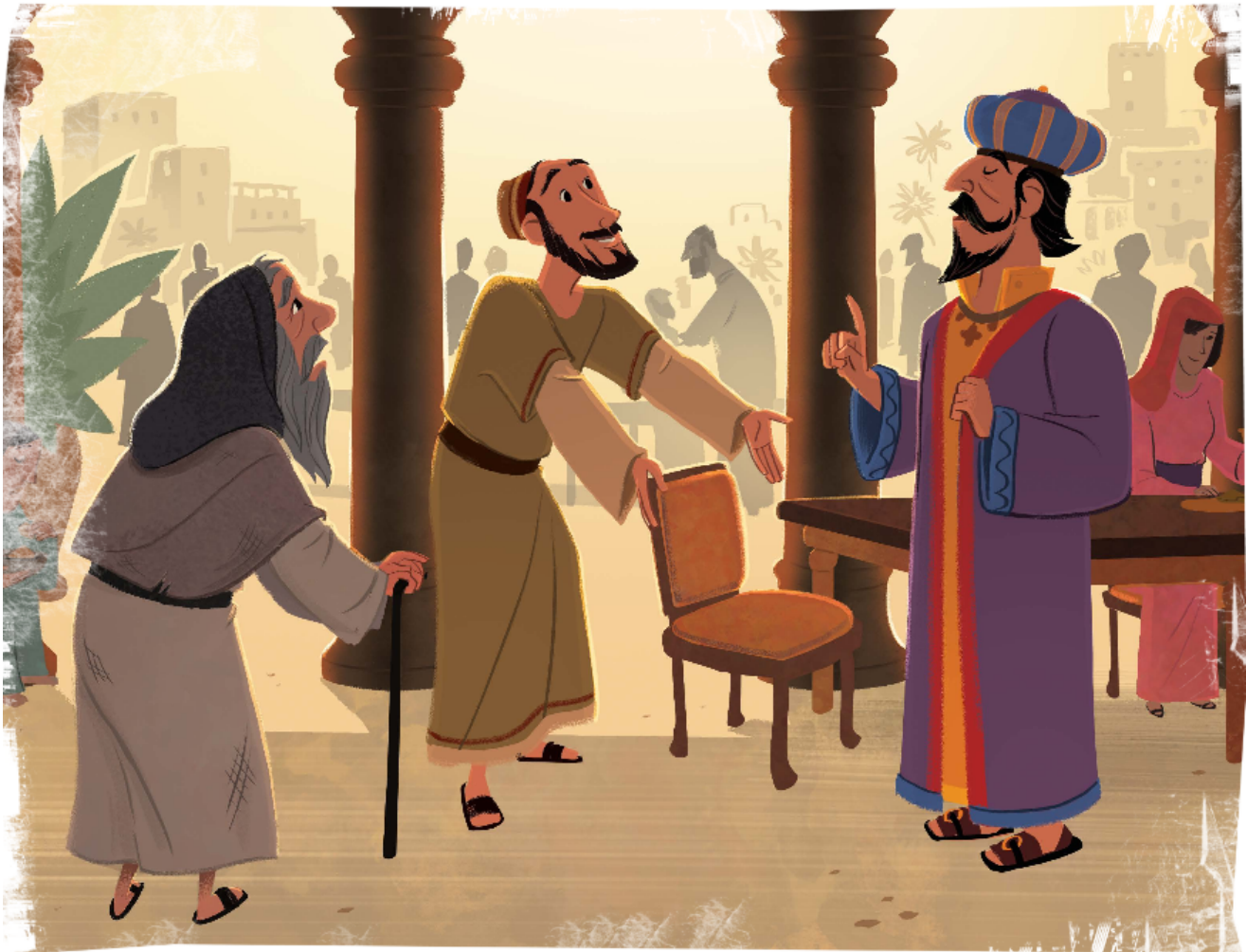


The Book of James

The Character of a Mature Christian

Lesson two – James Chapter two



Black Creek church of Christ

Summer Bible School

July 17, 2018

James 2 –Outline and Study Questions:

- **A mature Christian does not show respect of persons.** (2:1-13)
 - How does this section relate the last part of chapter one? _____
 - What kind of inconsistent behavior does James rebuke in verse one? _____
 - If you are able to, look up the word translated “respect of persons” in the KJV or “favoritism” in the NASB, etc., and tell what it means. _____
 - Give both O. T. and N. T. passages that condemn this kind of sinful behavior:
 - _____
 - _____
 - Discussion: What are things that might tempt one to show favoritism to one person over another?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - Describe the two men that James uses in this illustration (vv. 2-3), and how each one is treated. _____
 - Of what is one guilty according to 2:4, when they show such respect of persons?
 - _____
 - _____
 - What is God’s evaluation of the poor?
 - _____
 - _____
 - How were they guilty of treating the poor? _____
 - Where else in the book of James does the expression “them that love him” occur? _____
 - In what two ways were Christians mistreated by the rich?
 - _____
 - _____
 - What were they failing to fulfill when they showed respect of persons? _____
 - If they showed favoritism they were guilty of _____
 - What is the “royal law”? _____
 - How many laws does one have to break to be a transgressor? _____
 - Thought question: Which sin is worse – murder, adultery or showing respect of persons? _____
 - _____
 - By what will we be judged? _____
 - What is mercy? Why is it important? _____
- **A mature Christian has a faith that is not merely intellectual or verbal, but one that works.** (2:14-26)
 - Can faith without works save? (2:14) _____
 - What is the point of James’s illustration in verses 15-16? _____
 - _____
 - What is faith without works? (2:17; cf. Jn. 12:42-43) _____
 - Faith without works is no better than that which the _____ have. (2:19)

- Faith without works is _____ . (2:20)
- What two O. T. characters does James use to show the necessity of both faith and works in order to be justified in the sight of God?
 - _____
 - _____

• Addendum: The Justification of Abraham – James 2 and Romans 4

- **James 2:21-23** → Abraham was justified by works. (James 2:21-23)
 - 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? (cf. Gen. 22:18)
 - 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?
 - 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, ***Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. (Gen. 15:6)***
 - **Note: the works of James are the obedience of faith – not a perfect life.**

- **Romans 4:1-5** → Paul is not simply dealing with Abraham’s initial justification, nor teaching that Abraham was justified by “faith only”. Long before Gen. 15:6, Abraham had been walking faithfully with God.
 - Gen. 12:1-3 (Acts 7:2-3) → Abraham obeyed God’s command to leave his home.
 - In doing so, he illustrates what it means to please God by faith. (Heb. 11:6,8)
 - Gen. 12:6-7 → Abraham built an altar to God in Shechem.
 - Gen. 12:8 → Abraham built an altar to God between Bethel and Hai and called upon the name of the Lord.
 - Gen. 13:3-4 → called on the name of the Lord.
 - Gen. 14:19, 22 → “blessed be Abraham of the Most High God...”
 - Gen. 15:1 → “Fear not Abraham, I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward...”
 - Gen. 15:6 → and he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. (cf. James 2:21-23; Gen. 22:18)

- Paul did not teach salvation by faith only.
 - Rom. 1:5 → By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:
 - Rom. 2:8 → 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,
 - Rom. 6:17-18 → 17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.
 - Rom. 10:16 → But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?
 - 16:26 → But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

- **What are the “works” of Romans 4?**
 - The theme of Romans → The Gospel is God’s power to salvation. (1:16-17)
 - The wrath of God against sin. (Rom. 1:18; 2:6)
 - All have sinned. (Jews and Gentiles – 3:9, 23)

- None will be saved as a matter of debt, what is “owed” – on the basis of perfect works. Why? _____
 - Justification/salvation by the law would require perfect works – not a single violation. (2:25; Gal. 3:10-11)
 - Justification is possible only by forgiveness. (3:22-23)
 - God, by His grace, made forgiveness possible by the death of Christ. (3:24-25)
 - Grace does not exclude obedience. (Heb. 2:9; 5:9)
 - None will be able to boast before God. (Rom. 4:2)
 - **Abraham was not justified by sinless works (Rom. 4:2, 4), but the obedience of faith (James 2:20-23).**
 -
- **Paul’s own conversion is a pattern of salvation by faith and works:**
- I Tim. 1:14-16 → 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.
 - Acts 9:6 → And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.
 - Acts 22:16 → “...arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”



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“I realize we should not emphasize the rich over the poor, but it’s seldom we have a multi-millionaire visit us.”