

How Am I to Apply This?

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Read James 2:5-13. What words or phrases stand out to you? What questions come to your mind as you read?

- What actions are the recipients of James' letter doing that he is rebuking them for in this text?

- How many times is the word "law" used? Is it used the same each time or differently?

- In these verses we are told that if we keep the whole law but stumble at just one point, we are guilty of breaking all of it. James 3:2 makes our prognosis by that measure terrible. In our text, is James calling us to perfectionism? If not, what claim does it make on us?

- What does it mean to speak and act as those about to be judged by the law that gives freedom? What happens to those that do not?

- On what basis do the poor inherit the kingdom? (Is it their poverty?) Does James tell us why God chose the poor to be rich in faith? Where does the faith come from that the poor become rich in?

- What do you think it means that mercy triumphs over judgment? What picture should that bring to mind?

Faith that Turns Your World Right Side Up (Part 7)

Working Out the Spots In Your Religion

Jerry Cisar — June 19, 2016

Text: James 2:5-13

Introduction

I. The Double-Irony of Discrimination (2:5-7)

- A. A Gospel Irony (5-6a)
 - i. God chose the poor to be rich in faith.
 - a) Ephesians 2:8, 9

 - b) Deuteronomy 7:7-8

 - c) Why did God choose the poor to be rich in faith? (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

 - ii. V6 *But you have dishonored the poor.*

- B. A Practical Irony (6b-7)
 - i. exploiting them

 - ii. dragging them into court

iii. blaspheming

C. They are contradicting the Gospel.

II. The King's Law (2:8-12)

A. The Royal Law (8)

i. The King's Law traverses over both old and new covenants.

a) Matthew 22:36-39

b) 1 John 4:20

ii. A New Covenant Law (John 13:34-35)

B. The Mosaic Law (9-11)

i. Romans 13:8-10

a) A common summary of the commandments. (Luke 18:20).

b) Leviticus 19:15, 18

c) Break one, break all

➤ James 4:12

➤ James 3:2

James is not pushing us to perfectionism, but toward seeing our need for mercy so that we begin to live by the perfect law that gives freedom!

C. The Perfect Law

i. What is this perfect law?

a) Not for laws, but for those who are free. Galatians 4:3-7

b) The law that gives freedom.

ii. *Speak and act as those that are about to be judged...*

a) Speak differently because of the Gospel.

b) Do Mercy

c) *"as those who are **about to be** judged by..."*

d) The *"Law that gives freedom"* is the Gospel.

III. The Triumph of Mercy in Judgment (13)

A. Jesus said as much.

i. Matthew 5:7

ii. Matthew 6:12

iii. Matthew 7:1-2

iv. Matthew 18:32-35

B. Mercy Triumphs over Judgment!