"James #6"

James 2:8 - 13 (The Royal Law – Mercy over Judgement)

Review: James 2: 1 - 5 (NSAB)

V1: (NSAB) ***"My brethren do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism."***

- **James is writing to a congregation where the rich are considered more blessed by God than the poor.** ***As many churches are today, financial prosperity is considered spiritual***

(Jesus became poor and lowly for our sake… He spent time with sinners and the hurting…)

Matthew 5:3 ***"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."***

Text V4: (NKJV) ***"Have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?"***

(NSAB) ***"Have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?"***

- **We have a tendency to categorize people… many times we distance ourselves from those that are different from us.**
- **God has chosen the poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith. (V5…)**

James 2:6 – 7 (ESV)

- **When we dishonor the poor… we dishonor Jesus!**
- ***Blaspheme… can be translated, "Slander the honorable name by which you are called"***
- **James says, the rich Blaspheme or Slander the name of Jesus!**

Tonight's Study: James 2: 8 – 13 (ESV) Read

Verses 8 and 9… ***"If you fulfill the royal law… You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well… But if you show partiality, you are committing sin."***

- **The whole law is summarized in, the royal law…** ***"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*** **(Commandments 4 through 10)**
- **The royal law also fulfills, (Commandments 1 through 3… in)** "***you shall Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind."***
- **To show favoritism or partiality, is to break the whole law. (V's 10 – 11 Read)**
- **Why do you think James use Adultery as an example?**

- ***I believe adulty is the ultimate of self-love… and favoritism is also self-love; we exalt ourselves above others, because we think we are better.***

Philippians 2:3 (ESV) ***"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourself."***

(NKJV) ***"In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."***

Romans 12:10 (NKJV) ***"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another."***

Text: James 2: 12 – 13 (ESV) Read

- **The royal law or the law of liberty… both are the same!**
- **This is how we will be judged…**

If I show no mercy… I will be judged without mercy.

- **MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT!**

Robert Heller: ***"God is eternally and incredibly merciful. He has canceled the debt of your sin with the blood of Jesus. He has forgiven you and set you free from condemnation under the law. But too often we use His mercy as an excuse to sin… God's mercy triumphs over judgment it doesn't excuse it… Mercy is the language of repentance and prayer."***

Mathew 18: 21 – 35 (NASB)

"Then Peter came and said to Him, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. But since he did not have the means to repay, his Lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all he had, and repayment to be made. So, the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying. Have patience with me and I will repay you everything. And the Lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the dept. But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and he seized him and began to choke him, saying. Pay back what you owe. So, his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying. Have patience with me and I will repay you. But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what he owed. So, his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that happened. Then summoning him; his lord said to him, you wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you? And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. My heavenly father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Note-1: Ten Thousand talents was equal to more than fifteen years of a laborer.

Note-2: A denarius was a days wages. (A hundred denarii was a hundred days work)

Text James 2:13 (NKJV) ***"Judgement is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgement."***