

**God Time Day 1: Favoritism Part 1**



What do you know about these two men?

Which one would you like to share a taxi with?

Which one would you rather have to your home for a meal?



Read James 2:1

*My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.*



Pray that you might not show favoritism as you "hold on to," or show, your faith.

**God Time Day 2: Favoritism Part 2**



Read James 2:2

*For if someone comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and a poor person dressed in filthy clothes also comes in...*

There are two assumptions in this analogy we might miss.



First, circle "your meeting."

Second, underline "someone comes" and "comes in."



What is being assumed about you as James is writing here?

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As we practice our faith, we are expected to be "meeting" with others to share the good news of Jesus.



Write the name(s) of those will you be "meeting" with this week and inviting to "come in" to faith.

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Need some help getting started?

Go to: [blesseveryhome.com/cbcfamily](http://blesseveryhome.com/cbcfamily).

**God Time Day 3: Favoritism Part 3**

Look again at the picture on Day 1.



Read James 2:3-4

*<sup>3</sup>if you look with favor on the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Sit here in a good place," and yet you say to the poor person, "Stand over there," or "Sit here on the floor by my footstool," <sup>4</sup>haven't you made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?*



Circle "look with favor on" in verse 3.

Favoritism is the practice of giving unfair preferential treatment to one person or group at the expense of another.

Unfair goes both ways, up and down. We can give unfair preferential treatment to the rich and the poor.

In verse 3, underline "Sit here in a good place."



Put boxes around "Stand over there," and "Sit here on the floor by my footstool."

We get the distinction between "Sit here in a good place" and the other two, but how would you explain the distinction between these two?



<i>"Stand over there"</i>	<i>"Sit here on the floor by my footstool."</i>
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"Stand over there" gets them out of the way. It puts them where they can be ignored. "Sit here on the floor by my footstool" puts them in a social pecking order where you devalue their existence and are lording over them.



What does verse 4 say we've done when we've made "distinctions?"

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## God Time Day 4: Favor Love



James is giving us the stark reality of how God judges us when we discriminate (judge) based upon perceived wealth.



Read James 2:5

*Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Didn't God choose the poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?*



Why do you think God would “choose the poor to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom?”

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Circle the “promised” condition to inherit (to be heirs of) the kingdom. (Hint: *those who love him*)



Do you think it's easier for the poor or rich to love God? Why?

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But it was (and often is) assumed that wealth resulted from God's blessing. That the wealthy were “approved” by God.

In Mark 10 we read the story of The Rich Young Ruler. The young man lived a seemingly just life but was unwilling to give up his wealth to follow Jesus.



Read the interaction that followed in Mark 10:23-26

*<sup>23</sup> Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup> The disciples were astonished at his words. Again Jesus said to them, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> 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.” <sup>26</sup> They were even more astonished, saying to one another, “Then who can be saved?”*

Even the disciples were confused. But wealth and poverty can be measured in more ways than physical or financial. There is social, emotional, and spiritual wealth and poverty.



Write how God defines the “rich in faith,” the spiritual wealthy, in James 2:5. (Hint: Look at what you circled.)

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## God Time Day 5: Value Faith



As a review, *favoritism* is the practice of giving unfair preferential treatment to one person or group at the expense of another. As we've seen in James chapter 2, showing favoritism is a big deal to God – read ahead to James 2:9 and see what He really thinks. Showing favoritism to the rich at the expense of the poor is an obvious abomination, but in fact, showing favoritism to anyone at the expense of another for any reason is just plain old sin.



Read James 2:6-7

*<sup>6</sup> Yet you have dishonored the poor. Don't the rich oppress you and drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Don't they blaspheme the good name that was invoked over you?*

Frequently, “you-scratch-my-back-I'll-scratch-yours” ends up with someone kicking you in the pocketbook. And here's the rub: because we use worldly vs. eternal measures, we tend to give preferential treatment to those we think will benefit us, but they can often harm us the most.

Watch this short video from the Bible Project on “Justice.” Use the link on our 4G web page, search “Bible Project: Justice,” or use the QR code.



Write your impressions of this video.

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The video ends with a powerful scene and Micah 6:8. *God has told you, humans, what is good; And what the Lord requires of you is to do justice, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God.*



With the video's ending in mind, rewrite Micah 6:8 in your own words.

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