



# THE ROAD TO SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH

James 1:27

2:8 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. My brethren, show no partiality as you hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man with gold rings and in fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "Have a seat here, please," while you say to the poor man, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet, have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren. 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? But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you, is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme that honorable name which was invoked over you? 8 If you really fulfil the royal law, according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well.

## HOW DOES 1:27 FIT INTO THE EPISTLE OF JAMES?

- What is James about?
- How does James 1:27 fit into the Bible?
- What does James 1:27 have to do with Sunday morning?

## 54 ILLUSTRATIONS IN JAMES

1:6	like waves of sea	3:12	fig tree does not yield 2 kinds of fruit
1:10	riches are like flowers	3:12	salt water is not fresh
1:12	heaven compared to a crown	3:15	wisdom as earthly, unspiritual, devilish
1:15	sin compared to birth and growth	3:17	heavenly wisdom compared to fruit
1:17	God is light	3:18	peaceful people like farmer harvests crop from seed
1:18	Christians are first fruits		
1:23	a man who forgets what his image in a mirror looks like	4:1, 2	problems among Christians called wars
		4:2	desires among Christians called murder
1:26	Tongue like wild animal that needs bridled	4:4	Christians compared to adulteresses
1:27	Christian living compared to cleanliness	4:4	relationship with God compared to friendship
2:2-7	Partiality compared to rich and poor		

	visitors to assembly	4:7	relationship with Satan compared to defensive move
2:15-17	faith shown by helping ill clad and hungry	4:8	relationship with God compared to field maneuvers
2:19	faith without works compared to demons	4:8	relationship with God compared to washing
2:20	faith without works like barren woman	4:9	relationship with God compared to funeral
2:21	faith without works like Abraham in Gen 22	4:11-12	speaking evil compared to judging
2:25	faith without works like Rahab in Josh 2	4:13-14	story of false confidence
2:26	faith without works like body without spirit	4:14	life like a mist
3:2	one without mistakes has bridled whole body	4:15	story of godly confidence
3:3	bit in our mouth with guide us like bit guides horse	5:1-6	story of rich Christians
3:4	small rudder guides ship like small tongue controls body	5:3	riches will cut into fire
3:5	small fire burns large forest like tongue controls body	5:5	fattened hearts by their riches
3:6	tongue like a fire which burns body	5:7	patient waiters for Lord like patient farmer
3:6	tongue many times world which stains whole body	5:9	Lord's closeness compared to standing at door
3:7-8	beasts can be tamed but tongue is untamable one	5:10	prophet's example of patience and suffering
3:8	tongue like restless evil	5:11	Job example of patience and suffering
3:8	tongue like deadly poison	5:14	scenario of sick person
3:9	tongue extreme: bless Lord, curse men	5:17-18	Elijah example of righteous prayer
3:11	spring does not give up good/bad water like tongue	5:19-20	spiritual weakness compare to being off course

## 47 COMMANDS IN JAMES

Count it all joy	Resist the devil
Let steadfastness have effect	Draw near to God
Let him ask God	Clean your hands
Let him ask in faith	Purify your hearts
That person must not suppose	Be wretched
Let the lowly brother boast	Mourn
Let no one say	Weep
Do not be deceived	Let your laughter ... to mourning
Know this	Humble yourselves
Be quick to hear	Do not speak evil against one another
Be slow to speak	Weep
Be slow to anger	Howl
Put away	Be patient
Be doers	Establish your hearts
Show no partiality	Do not grumble
Listen	Do not swear
Speak	Let him pray
Act	Let him sing praises

Let not many become  
Look at the ships  
Do not boast  
Do not be false to the truth  
Submit to God

Let him call  
Let them pray  
Confess sins  
Pray for one another  
Let him know

#### James 4:4

Unfaithful creatures! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

### MEANING OF “WORLD” IN JAMES

3:6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is an unrighteous world among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the cycle of nature, & set on fire by hell.

2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren. Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith & heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him?

1:27 Religion that is pure & undefiled before God & the Father is this: to visit orphans & widows in their affliction, & to keep oneself unstained from the world.

### WHOLE BOOK OF JAMES AS MANUAL ON FRIENDSHIP

1:2-4—testing a friendship makes it stronger  
1:5-11—doubleminded person not a good friend  
1:16-18—friends of God know He provides  
1:19-27—friends of God “do” His bidding  
2:1-13—Friends of God would not reject the poor from church  
2:14-26—real friendship means doing  
3:1-12—cursing tongue cannot praise God and be His friend  
3:13-4:12—envy is hostile to God  
4:13-16—illustrations of people who forget God in charge  
5:1-6—picture of friends of the world  
5:7-20—friendship demands patience, honesty, relationships, shepherding

### WHAT DOES A FRIEND OF GOD DO?

- Seeks pure and undefiled religion
- Takes care of widows and orphans
- Keeps unspotted from the world
- Welcomes the poor into worship

### TWO CRITICAL BIBLICAL THEMES

1. You can't love the God you can't see if you don't love the people you do see
2. Community relationships are only as good as the way the community treats its weakest members. A chain is no stronger than its weakest link

## TRACING THE TWO THEMES

### DEUTERONOMY

- How to form the ideal human community
- Special interest in the most vulnerable people
- TC1-4 and TC4-10—vertical depends on horizontal
- Laws that protect the vulnerable: Dt. 10, 14,15, 16, 24
- Tithes to weakest: orphans & widows (14:29)
- Save seats at PO for O/W (16:11)
- Set up courts to protect O/W (24:17)
- Deuteronomy 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.
- Deuteronomy 10:18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. 19 Love the sojourner therefore; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

### JOSHUA THROUGH ESTHER

- All evaluations made on how the people lived up to the standards of Deuteronomy
- Joshua is a good leader because he kept commands of Deuteronomy
- Judges are good/bad based on Deuteronomy
- Verdicts on kings based on Deuteronomy

### ISAIAH (8TH CENTURY BC)

- critical of Jerusalem. Why?
- Isaiah 1:16-17 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.

### JEREMIAH 5 & 7 (7TH CENTURY BC)

- critical of Jerusalem
- Jeremiah 7:4-7 Do not trust in these deceptive words: ‘This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.’ For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly execute justice one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers for ever.

### EZEKIEL 22 (6TH CENTURY BC)

- critical of exiles
- Ezekiel 22:7 Father & mother are treated with contempt in you; the sojourner suffers extortion in your midst; the fatherless & the widow are wronged in you.

### ZECHARIAH 7 (5TH CENTURY BC)

- critical of Post Exilic Jerusalem
- Zechariah 7:9-11 Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy each to his brother, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor; and let none of

you devise evil against his brother in your heart.” But they refused to hearken, and turned a stubborn shoulder, and stopped their ears that they might not hear.

## JESUS

- Luke 4:18-19 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”
- Mark 10:13-16 And they were bringing children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

## EARLY CHURCH

- Acts 2:4 and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need.
- Acts 4:34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them
- Gal. 2:10 only they would have us remember the poor, which very thing I was eager to do.
- 2 Cor. 8:14 but that as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality.

## END OF NT: JAMES/1 JOHN

- James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.
- 1 John 4:20 he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.
- James 1:17-2:8 church is no stronger than how it treats the poor person in the assembly