

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
Lesson # 12 February 14, 2023 – February 19, 2023

Unit III: GOD'S Call and Its Responsibilities

Subject: The Rich and the Poor

Text: James 2: 1-12

Key Verse: Hearken, my beloved brethren, hath not GOD chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the Kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him (James 2: 5, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) Be Careful (James 2: 1-4)
- 2) Be Courteous-Hearken (James 2: 5-8)
- 3) Be Cautious-Hear (James 2: 9-12)

Introduction

Now, hear ye, and hearken unto GOD 'S words; GOD has called every believer to the important task of treating others as he or she desires to be treated, treating them with dignity, with fairness, and with love. GOD commands HIS people (believers) to be kind to strangers and welcome them, to serve the poor, orphans, and widows, along with those who may be sick and hungry among us, who lives in the margins of our society. We Christians are to extend GOD'S graciousness toward others as if we are literally engaging or entertaining the LORD HIMSELF and even HIS angels (Read Matthew 25: 40).

Lesson Pointer # 1

- Be Careful (James 2: 1-4)

James challenged the saints to be careful of practicing or showing favoritism within the church, not to show more respect for one person over the other (James 2: 1). Now, James made his point clear by giving an example, saying if one person come unto your assembly wearing gold ring, and goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor person wearing filthy raiment (James 2: 2). In this example the rich person is offered the best seat while the poor person is directed to stand there or sit here under my footstool on the floor (James 2: 3). Thus James concluded that showing favoritism is showing partiality in oneself, and one become judges of evil thoughts (James 2: 4).

The Rich and the Poor!

Lesson Pointer # 2

- Be Courteous-Hearken (James 2: 5-8)

James showed his personal, relational connection with his audience by speaking in love, saying hearken or listen my beloved brethren, is it not GOD who choose the poor of this world rich in faith in HIM, and heirs of the Kingdom which GOD has promised to them who love him (James 2: 5).

James wanted his audience to understand that by despising the poor they were not just despising and dishonoring them but also the LORD HIMSELF, because those that showed favoritism are the same ones that mistreat, and drag believers into courts (James 2: 6). Also, they are the same ones that blaspheme the name of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST (James 2: 7). James told them that if they observed the “Royal law,” known as the “Golden Rule,” love thy neighbor as thy self, you do well (James 2: 8).

The Rich and the Poor!

Lesson Pointer # 3

- **Be Cautious-Hear (James 2: 9-12)**

James warned them against showing favoritism, saying that they who engage in it are guilty of sin (James 2: 9). You, see if you keep the whole law, and stumble in one point of it you are guilty of them all (James 2: 10). Now, know he that says, do not commit adultery, says also, do not kill. Now if you commit no adultery, but yet kill, you are become a transgressor of the law (James 2: 11). So believers are to speak, and to do, as they that shall be judge by the law of liberty (James 2: 12).

The Rich and the Poor!

Nuggets of The Lesson

- 1) **Believers are to know that their faith of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, whom is the LORD of glory, with respect of person (James 2: 1; 1 Corinthians 2: 8; Leviticus 19: 15).**
- 2) **Believers are to know that it is GOD who chosen the poor of this world rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom (James 2: 5; Luke 12: 21; John 7: 48).**
- 3) **Believers are to keep the Royal Law or the Golden Rule, which is to love thy neighbor as thyself (James 2: 8; Leviticus 19: 18; Matthew 22: 39).**
- 4) **As believers if we have respect to persons, we commit sin (James 2: 9; James 2: 1).**
- 5) **Whosoever keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, is guilty of them all (James 2: 10; Deuteronomy 27: 26; Matthew 5: 19).**