



# BELIEVE IT.

## James: A Bible Study HIGH & LOW

*I'm lonely because I'm selfish.  
(Selfishness has alienated me.)*

*I'm poor because  
I'm confused about what it means to be rich.*

### **THE HIGH AND THE LOW**

The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. <sup>10</sup>But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.

<sup>11</sup>For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

James 1:9-11

### **NO PLAYING FAVORITES**

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. <sup>2</sup>Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. <sup>3</sup>If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? <sup>7</sup>Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

James 2:1-7

### **DON'T DO NOTHING**

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

<sup>12</sup>Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, <sup>13</sup>because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

James 2:8, 12-13

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.

<sup>16</sup>If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

James 2:15-16

### **WARNING TO THE OPPRESSOR**

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

<sup>5</sup>You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence.

You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

James 5:1-6

### **JESUS -- TO THE LOW (RICH)**

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

<sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

<sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>24</sup>"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve both God and Money.

Matthew 6:19-21, 24

### **JESUS -- TO THE HIGH (POOR)**

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"

<sup>31</sup>So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup>But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup>Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6:25, 31-34

### **A LOOK IN THE MIRROR**

Take *pride* in your position... Don't store... Don't worry...

Don't oppress... Don't judge... Love your neighbor as yourself...

### **NEXT STEPS**

June 23/24, 2012