

1. Opening Prayer
2. Wealth and Poverty

- a. In the Old Testament

We should care for the poor. (Leviticus 25:35-40, Psalm 15:1-5)

There should be no partiality in the matter of justice. (Exodus 23:2-3 and 6)

We should minimize polarization of wealth. (Leviticus 19:9-13, 25:23-27)

We should hope the end of poverty. (Deuteronomy 15:4)

We should uphold dignity of the poor. (Deuteronomy 24:10-13)

Prophets condemned the inequality between the poor and the rich. (Amos 4:1, Isa. 10:2, Micah 2:2)

- b. In the New Testament

We should choose either God or “mammon.” (Matthew 6:24)

Jesus tells us to share our wealth. (Mark 10:16-26, Luke 16:19-31 and 18:18-27, Acts 2:41-47)

3. Structure of James 2 (revised from Won-Il Choo, Chongshin Univ.)

- a. Acts of Favoritism and Faith (vv.1-4)

Ex) Clothing

Acts of favoritism are from evil thoughts (v. 4)

- b. Transgressors Have Favoritism in Their Acts (vv. 5-13)

God’s **mercy** upon the poor (v. 5)

People’s **merciless** favoritism with the rich who were **merciless** (v. 6-7)

Acts of love is **royal law** (v. 8)

Acts of favoritism is a **sin** (v. 9)

All who fail the law are **transgressors** (v. 10-11)

Act by the **law** (v. 12)

Merciless Judgment (v. 13)

Mercy over judgment (v. 13)

c. Faith without Works is Dead (vv. 14-19)

Faith without works has **nothing good** (vv. 14-16)

Faith without works is **dead faith** (v. 17-18)

Even demons have faith without works (v. 19)

d. Examples of Faith with/out works (vv. 20-26)

Faith without works is **barren** (v. 20)

Abraham's faith with works (v. 21)

Works **completes** Abraham's faith (v. 22)

Thus, Abraham became righteous and a friend of God (v. 23)

Works and faith **justify** a person (v. 24)

Rahab was justified by faith and works (v. 25)

Faith without works is **dead** (v. 26)

4. Questions

- a. Would there be a favoritism that James would point out to be wrong in a church of these days? If yes, what would it be?
- b. Do you have any story that God has chosen “the poor in the world” to be “rich in faith?”
- c. How shall we understand the faith of a demon? What do you think James meant by “shudder” in verse in verse 19?
- d. Let us talk about the story of Rahab (Joshua 2:1-14 and Matthew 1:5-6)
- e. Some people argue that Paul, in contrast to James, emphasizes faith only without works. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Do both James and Paul talk about the same kind of works or not? How shall we see the relations between faith and works?
- f. In this letter, how do you think James sees the poor and the rich? Does James give you any challenge? Then, what is it?

5. Closing Prayer