

TITLE: James (Lesson 10)

TEXT: James 2:5-8

INTRO: "God must love the common people because He made so many of them."

Abraham Lincoln

I. (vs. 5) Getting on board with God's plan.

A. God has a plan for each of our lives.

NOTE: Ps. 139:13-18 "James teaches us that the grace of God makes the rich man poor, because he cannot depend on his wealth; and it makes the poor man rich, because he inherits the riches of grace in Christ. (Review James 1:9-11.)" *Warren Wiersbe*

B. Sometimes our plans become obstacles to God's plan.

NOTE: Matt. 19:21-26; I Cor. 1:26-31

II. (vs. 6-7) A distorted view of certain people.

A. "But ye have despised the poor."

NOTE: **despised:** to dishonour, insult, treat with contempt "As long as men are natural men who are not born-again Christians, the poor will never get a fair deal in this world. Their only hope is in Jesus Christ." *J. Vernon McGee*

B. The rich oppress the common man.

NOTE: **oppress:** to dominate and exploit.

C. The rich drag you into court. (economic persecution)

D. They blaspheme the name of Christ. (religious persecution)

NOTE: Acts 11:26; I Pet. 4:13-14

III. (vs. 8) Loving people according to Scripture.

A. The royal law according to Scripture.

NOTE: Matt. 22:37-40; John 15:9-14

1. Why do we have trouble loving others?

2. What is a neighbor?

NOTE: "Jesus told us that our neighbor is anyone who needs our help (Luke 10:25-37). It is not a matter of geography, but opportunity. The important question is not, 'Who is my neighbor?' but 'To whom can I be a neighbor?'" *Warren Wiersbe*

B. Love enables us to treat people the way God commands us to.

NOTE: Rom. 13:8-10

CONCLUSION: "The spirit of this 'royal law' runs very deep. Here you are, coming home from work one day when, on alighting from the bus, you notice that the sky ahead is black with smoke. 'Hello!' you say. 'It looks as though there is a house on fire.' Just then, with sirens blaring, the fire truck roars by. You hurry your steps and turn a corner. Now you can see a crowd of people up ahead, and the fire truck is unloading its men and equipment. 'It's on my block!' you say, as you break into a run. Then you notice that it is your *house* that's on fire. 'Praise the Lord!' you exclaim. 'I'm so glad it's not my neighbor's house.'" *John Phillips*