

RSC SERMON SERIES

*Jamies*

FAITH THAT WORKS

# James

James 2:1-13 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.

<sup>2</sup> Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old 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?

# Iakopo

Iakopo 2:1-13

O’u uso e, ‘aua tou te fa’ailoga tagata i lo ‘outou tāofi i le fa’atuatua i lo tatou Ali’i mamalu o Iesu Keriso.

<sup>2</sup> Auā ‘āfai e ulu atu se tagata i la ‘outou fa’apotopotoga ma ni mama auro i ona lima ma le ‘ofu pupula, ‘ae ulu atu ai fo’i se tagata mativa ma le ‘ofu leaga.

<sup>3</sup> ‘Ona ‘outou fa’aaloalo atu lea ‘iā te ia ‘ua ‘ofu i le ‘ofu pupula, ma fa’apea atu i ai, “Inā alāla ia oe i lenei mea lelei;” ‘ae fai atu i le tagata mativa, “Inā tu ia oe ‘i’iā,” pe “Nofo ia ‘i’inei i lalo o le mea e tu ai o’u vae;”

<sup>4</sup> e lē ‘ua fete’ena’i ‘ea ‘outou ‘iā te ‘outou lava, ma ‘outou fai ma fa’amasino e leaga ai o ‘outou manatu?





# James

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: 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 dishonoured 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 blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

<sup>8</sup> If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbour as yourself,” you are doing right. <sup>9</sup> But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

# Iakopo

5 O’u uso pele e fa’alogologo mai ia; e lē ‘ua filifilia ‘ea e le Atua o ē matitiva i lenei lalolagi, ‘ia tamao’āiga i le fa’atuatua, ‘ua tofia fo’i i latou i le mālō ‘ua ia folafolaina mai i ē alolofa ‘iā te ia?

6 Peita’i ‘outou, ‘ua ‘outou fa’aletaualoa le tagata mativa. E lē ‘ua fa’asauā ‘ea o ē tamao’āiga ‘iā te ‘outou, ma latou fetoso ‘iā te i ‘outou i le fa’amasinoga? <sup>7</sup> E lē ‘ua ‘upu leaga ‘ea i latou i le suafa lelei ‘ua igoa a’i ‘outou.

8 ‘Āfai fo’i ‘ua ‘ato’atoa ‘ona ‘ana’ana o ‘outou i le tulafono silisili, e tusa ma le Tusi, “Ia e alofa atu i lē lua te tuā’oi, ‘ia pei o oe lava ‘iā te oe,” tou te amio lelei ai. <sup>9</sup> Ae ‘āfai tou te fa’ailogaina tagata, ‘ua ‘outou agasala ai, ‘ua fa’ailoaina ai i le tulafono o solitulafono ‘outou.



# James

<sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

<sup>11</sup> For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

<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.

# Iakopo

10 Auā o sē tausi le tulafono uma, ‘ae agasala i se mea e tasi, ‘ua nofo sala ia i mea uma.

11 Auā o ia na fetalai mai, “Aua le mulilua,” ‘ua fetalai mai fo’i o ia, “Aua le fasioti tagata;” ‘āfai ‘e te lē mulilua, a ‘ua e fasioti tagata, ‘ua fai oe ma solitulafono.

12 ‘Ia fa’apea ‘ona ‘outou tautala, ‘ia fa’apea fo’i ‘ona ‘outou faia, pei o ē a fa’amasinoina i le tulafono o le sa’olotoga.

13 Auā o le lē alofa, e lē alofagia o ia i le fa’amasinoga; a o lē alofa, e ‘oli’oli ia pe a fa’amasinoina.



# Summary

- Vs1 Don't give special attention to the wealthy
- Vs2-3 Don't despise the poor
- Vs4 Don't DISCRIMINATE or judge by appearances
  
- Vs5 God's view vs Man's view of wealth
- Vs6 Reality check on what worldly wealth produces
- VS7 Wealth can distort godly values
  
- Vs8 The "Royal Law"
- Vs9-11 Integrity with God's law
- Vs12 'Slave law' vs 'freed law'
  
- Vs13 Mercy triumphs over judgement



# Discrimination

**Discrimination:** *treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction towards, a person based on the group, class, or category to which the person is perceived to belong*





# Possible benefits of WEALTH

- Financial contributions to God's projects
- Resources available for God's use
- Available time for God's work
- Educated and well read
- Trained and with refined skills
- Leadership qualities and experience
- Confidence through past successes



# Poverty

Poverty has always been in the world

- Climate
- War
- Inequality
- Disease
- Overpopulation
- Violence



Christianity was a recipe for poverty in the 1<sup>st</sup> century





# Who are our poor?

Today there can be many reasons for poverty in NZ

- Lack of income – job loss
- Excessive debt
- Addictions
- Financial ruin
- Mental health
- Genuine misfortune
- Divorce
- Violence



Financial status has no relevance to your true value!



# Which is more noble?

Rich or Poor

Is God pleased with poverty? - NO!

Is God offended by wealth? - NO!



# God's definition of VALUE is different

- Gold, money, material things, property, business empires, Bitcoin – have no currency value.
- Popularity, fame, status, charisma – don't necessarily reveal what's inside.
- Spiritual vocation, leadership, or Christian endeavour – can simply be external.

*That's not to say these have no purpose –  
...they just have no true value!*





# The widow's offering

Mark 12:41-43 (NIV)

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

<sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.

Mareko 12:41-43

<sup>41</sup> Sa nofo Iesu e feagai tonu ma le mea e teu ai tupe, ma silasila atu i tagata e to'atele o lo'o foa'i atu a latou meaalofa. E to'atele ē mau'oloa sa foa'i atu mea e tele; <sup>42</sup> 'ona sau ai lea o le isi fafine mativa 'ua oti lana tane ma foa'i atu tupe iti 'apamemea e lua, pe tusa lona aogā ma le sene e tasi. <sup>43</sup> 'Ona vala'au atu lea o ia i ona so'o, 'ua fa'apea atu, "O le 'upu moni 'ou te ta'u atu 'iā te 'outou, o le foa'i a le fafine mativa 'ua oti lana tane na tu'u i totonu o le mea e teu ai tupe e sili atu lea i lo tagata uma na tu'uina atu a latou foa'i.



# What's my wealth worth to God?



*James*

# True Value



Chris' Rock— just like any old other you might find in the river

It has no apparent value...until you understands its worth!





Worth a closer look!



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# God looks at the heart

Samuel 16:7 *Modern English Version*  
(MEV)

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel,  
“Do not look on his  
appearance or on the height of  
his stature, because I have  
rejected him. For the Lord sees  
not as man sees. For man  
looks on the outward  
appearance, but the Lord looks  
on the heart.”

1 Samuelu 16:7 *RSCB*

7 A 'ua fetalai mai le ALI'I 'iā  
Samuelu, “Aua 'e te va'ai i lona  
tino, po o le maualuga o lona  
tino, auā 'ua 'ou tete'e 'iā te ia;  
auā e lē va'ai le ALI'I, pei o le va'ai  
a tagata, auā e va'ai tagata i le  
tino, 'ae va'ai le ALI'I i le loto.”



# James

<sup>8</sup> If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbour as yourself,” you are doing right. <sup>9</sup> But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

# Iakopo

<sup>8</sup> 'Āfai fo'i 'ua 'ato'atoa 'ona 'ana'ana o 'outou i le tulafono silisili, e tusa ma le Tusi, “Ia e alofa atu i lē lua te tuā'oi, 'ia pei o oe lava 'iā te oe,” tou te amio lelei ai. <sup>9</sup> Ae 'āfai tou te fa'ailogaina tagata, 'ua 'outou agasala ai, 'ua fa'ailoaina ai i le tulafono o solitulafono 'outou.



James



# The “Royal Law”

Matthew 22:34-40 (NIV)

<sup>34</sup> Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment.

<sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

<sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Mataio 22:34-40

<sup>34</sup> ‘Ua fa’alogo faresaio ‘ua lē mau tali satukaio ‘iā Iesu, ‘ona potopoto ane lea o i latou, <sup>35</sup> ‘ua fesili atu fo’i le isi a’oa’o tulafono e tau fa’asesē ‘iā Iesu: <sup>36</sup> “Le A’oa’o e, o le ā le poloa’iga e sili ‘ona tāua i le tulafono?”

<sup>37</sup> ‘Ua fetalai atu Iesu, “ ‘ ‘Ia e alofa atu i le Ali’i lou Atua ma lou loto ‘atoa, ma lou agaga ‘atoa, ma lou manatu ‘atoa.’ <sup>38</sup> O le poloa’iga muamua lea ‘ua sili ‘ona tāua.

<sup>39</sup> E fa’apenā fo’i lona lua, ‘ ‘Ia e alofa atu i lē lua te tuā’oi e pei o oe lava ‘iā te oe.’

<sup>40</sup> O poloa’iga ia e lua ‘ua autū i ai le tulafono ‘atoa ma a’oa’oga a perofeta.”



# Origin of the “Royal Law”

Leviticus 19:18 (NIV)

18 “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.

Levitiko 19:18

18 ‘Aua ‘e te tauī ma sui, ‘a ua fo‘i le fa‘amoemoe lou ita i tagata o lou nu‘u, a ‘e te alofa atu i lē lua te tuā‘oi ia pei o oe lava ‘iā te oe: O a‘u o le ALI‘I.



# God's laws explained in Leviticus

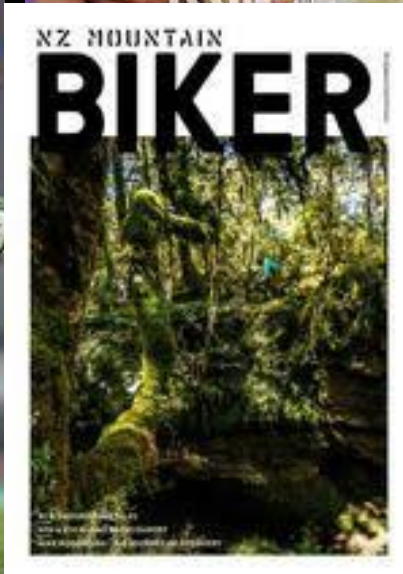
Respect  
Care for the poor  
Integrity  
Honesty  
Decency  
Fairness  
Compassion  
Justice  
Fairness  
Wholesome speech  
Safety  
Not bearing grudges  
Love  
Purity



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# What/who determines your true value?



**In God's eyes you have great value!**



*James*