Bible questions plan week 37 day 4
James 2
World English Bible British Edition

More advice on how to behave.

1 My brothers, don't hold the faith of our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with partiality. 2 For if a man with a gold ring, in fine clothing, comes into your synagogue,* and a poor man in filthy clothing also comes in, 3 and you pay special attention to him who wears the fine clothing and say, "Sit here in a good place;" and you tell the poor man, "Stand there," or "Sit by my footstool" 4 haven't you shown partiality amongst yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

** or, meeting*

What attitude does James warn against?

5 Listen, my beloved brothers. Didn't God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonoured the poor man. Don't the rich oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? 7 Don't they blaspheme the honourable name by which you are called?

Whom has God chosen, and what problems were the rich causing?

8 However, if you fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself,"* you do well. 9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors.
10 For whoever keeps the whole law, and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. 11 For he who said, "Do not commit adultery,"** also said, "Do not commit murder."*** Now if you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 2 So speak and so do as men who are to be judged by the law of freedom. 13 For judgement is without mercy to him who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgement.

What happens if someone keeps the whole law except for one point?

** Quotation from Leviticus 19 v 18*

*** Quotation from Exodus 20 v 14 and Deuteronomy 5 v 18*

**** Quotation from Exodus 20 v 13 and Deuteronomy 5 v 17*

14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man says he has faith, but has no works? Can faith save him? 15 And if a brother or sister is naked and in lack of daily food, 16 and one of you tells them, "Go in peace. Be warmed and filled;" yet you didn't give them the things the body needs, what good is it? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. 18 Yes, a man will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

What does James say about faith and works?

19 You believe that God is one. You do well. The demons also believe—and shudder. 20 But do you want to know, vain man, that faith apart from works is dead? 21 Wasn't Abraham our father justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith worked with his works, and by works faith was perfected. 23 So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness,"* and he was called the friend of God.

** Quotation from Genesis 15 v 6*

How did Abraham show that his faith was real?

24 You see then that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith. 25 In the same way, wasn't Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.

How are people justified?