### James

## Chapter 2

1My brothers,  
  
Don’t show favoritism when it comes to the glorious faith of our Lord Jesus the Anointed One!  
  
2Because if a man who’s wearing a gold ring and fine clothes enters your synagogue, and then somebody whose clothes are filthy also enters... 3do you favor the one who’s wearing the fine clothes and say:  
  
 ‘Here’s a good place to sit?’  
  
And do you then say to the poor one:  
  
 ‘Stand [over there]!’  
  
Or:  
  
 ‘Sit here under my footstool?’  
  
4If so, aren’t you showing favoritism among yourselves and judging from evil thoughts?  
  
5Listen, my beloved brothers!  
  
Didn’t God choose the poor of this system of things to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom that He promised to those who love Him?  
  
6Yet, you [tend to] dishonor the poor!  
  
Aren’t rich people the ones who are oppressing you and dragging you into courts?  
  
7And aren’t they the ones who speak badly of the good name you’re called by?  
  
8Now, if you’re obeying the royal law of the Scriptures that says, ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself,’ you’re doing well... 9But if you’re showing favoritism, then you’re sinning and the Law convicts you of being its violator!  
  
10Because if someone who’s trying to obey the Law fails in just one little part of it, then he’s broken the whole thing.  
  
11Because the One who said:  
  
 ‘You must not commit adultery,’ [Exodus 20:14]  
  
...also said:  
  
 ‘You must not murder.’ [Exodus 20:13]  
  
So if you aren’t committing adultery, but you murder someone, you’ve broken the whole Law.  
  
12Therefore, speak and behave as though you’re about to be judged by the law of a free people… 13And [remember that] the merciless will be judged without mercy, since mercy is an important part of justice.  
  
14So what good does it do, my brothers, if someone says that he has faith, but isn’t moved to do anything about it? Can his faith save him?  
  
15[For example], if a brother or sister doesn’t have clothing or enough food for each day, 16and you tell him:  
  
 ‘Go in peace; be warm and well fed.’  
  
...if you don’t give him what he needs to survive, what good have you done?  
  
17So, faith without good deeds is dead!  
  
18Now, someone can say:  
  
 ‘Even though you may do good things, I have [more] faith!’  
  
Well, you show me your faith without good deeds, and I’ll show you my faith by the good things that I do.  
  
19And do you say that you believe there’s just one God?  
  
That’s good… But the demons believe that too!  
  
Yes, they believe and it frightens them!  
  
20I want you to know, O empty man, that faith apart from [good] deeds is dead!  
  
21For wasn’t our father AbraHam called righteous because of the things that he did… Such as when he offered up his son IsaAc on the altar?  
  
22Yes, you can see how his faith worked along with his deeds, and that it was his deeds that perfected his faith. 23So the scripture was fulfilled that says AbraHam...  
  
 ‘...believed in The God, and for this he was considered to be righteous...’ [Genesis 15:6]  
  
...and he was called God’s friend.  
  
24So you see, a man is pronounced righteous by the things that he does, not just by the things he believes!  
  
25The same was true of the prostitute, RaHab. For she was called righteous because she took the messengers in and then sent them out by another way. 26So, just as a body that isn’t breathing is dead, faith without good deeds is dead.