

# James Chapter 2



1:27

## Refresher: Link To The Previous Chapter

Read James 1:27. Remember, James very specifically chose two types of people. Now read chapter 2:1. Why do you think James begins this chapter by talking about respecting persons? What is the link between these two verses?

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In your own words, explain what James means by showing “respect of persons”. How can we possibly do this today?

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In chapter 2:2 we have a poor person introduced to the story. James compares the rich and the poor many times in his letter. Why do you think this is? Who was he writing to?

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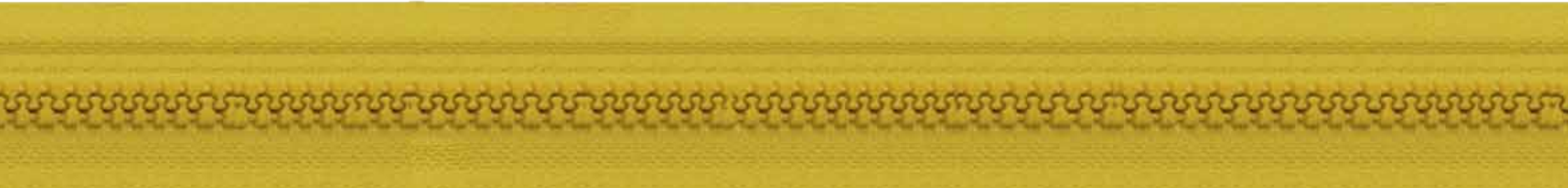
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In fact, the scripture is full of quotes about God caring for the poor! Look up these quotes, and summarise them in a few words. Then you can turn this into a box to put in your margin:

Proverbs 14:31; 19:17; 21:13; 29:7

Isaiah 25:4

2 Corinthians 8:9



**2:1-4**

# God's View: Respecting Of Persons

Read chapter 2:2-3. What are these two people being judged on?

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How does this remind us of how God looks upon us? (See 2 Chron 6:30-31). What two aspects are shown in this quote?

1.

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2.

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**RESPECTING PERSONS  
AN UNGODLY ATTITUDE**



There is a very big difference between how these two people are treated! A “good place” is pretty obvious, but what does sitting at a “footstool” mean?

Look up Psalm 110:1 and copy it out in the space below.

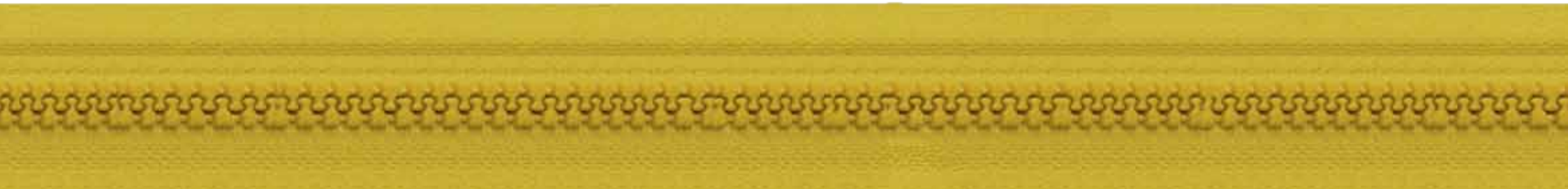
In this particular Psalm, what type of people sit as a footstool?

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This is strong language! And this all began because people were judging on the basis of what? **Outward appearance!** This is a real take-home lesson for us, as it happens all too often.



**2:5-7**

# God's View: The Rich vs The Poor

What have we learned from this last section? It is easy to judge people based on outward appearance. Often our judgments are very harsh. But we can often favour or admire people with riches or influence.

**What does God have to say about riches & rich people?**

Proverbs 14:20

Proverbs 28:6

Ecclesiastes 5:12

1 Tim 6:6-10

**RESPECTING PERSONS  
AN UNGODLY ATTITUDE**



**RICH AND POOR  
DON'T JUDGE ON  
APPEARANCE**



**It's worth remembering that there is no evil in being rich - Abraham was wealthy (Gen 13:2) along with many other faithful people. It's how we view and what we do with those riches that will make the difference:**

**Proverbs 22:16**

**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

**Now look up the following quotes and see whom God has chosen to call to the faith:**

**Luke 6:20**

**Isaiah 29:19**

**2 Cor 9:6-7**

These might be worth copying into your margin next to James 2:5!

**2:8-11**

# God's View: There Are No 'Little' Sins!

How often might we quietly think, "Everybody judges people though, it's not that bad!"

**James is very clear on the matter, he doesn't pull any punches! Copy out verse 9 below to emphasise how strongly he feels on the matter:**

**What do you think James' key message is in the following verse (chapter 2:10)?**

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**RESPECTING PERSONS  
AN UNGODLY ATTITUDE**



**RICH AND POOR  
DON'T JUDGE ON  
APPEARANCE**



**NO 'LITTLE' SINS  
ALL SIN IS EVIL**



**In verse 11, James talks about showing respect of persons in the same breath as two other types of sin; what are these?**

1.

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2.

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**Under the Law of Moses, what was the punishment for both these offences?**

1. (Hint: Look up Gen 9:6 and Num 35:30, 31)

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2. (Hint: Look up Lev 20:10 and John 8:4, 5)

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**What do you think James is trying to indicate by putting respect of persons next to these other sins?**

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**What was a key message of chapter one? Try and summarise it in no more than three words (chapter 1:22 holds the key!) \_\_\_\_\_**

James now develops this idea. Not only must we hear and do, we must also say and do. Words and actions must be consistent!

**Find a copy of the RSV translation. If you don't have a hard copy, you can look it up on eSword or on the internet. Copy out chapter 2:14-17 from the RSV in the space below:**



**RESPECTING PERSONS  
AN UNGODLY ATTITUDE**



**RICH AND POOR  
DON'T JUDGE ON  
APPEARANCE**



**NO 'LITTLE' SINS  
ALL SIN IS EVIL**

**Now, summarise or re-word the lesson in your own words in the box underneath. Imagine you are James re-writing the letter, but writing it to young people!**

Chapter 2:19, 20 are important verses. Believing is not enough! Ungodly people (the "devils" James is referring to) believe there is a God, but they do nothing about it. We must DO something about our beliefs! This thought leads us neatly into the next section.

**CONSISTENCY IS THE KEY  
WORDS AND ACTIONS  
MUST MATCH**



**2:19-26**

# Faith And Works: One Without The Other?

Read aloud the following verses: chapter 2:14-26.

James very deliberately uses two people to illustrate this section; who are they?

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Now, have a think about how different both these people were! Write each person's name in the box below, then fill out the description based on the verses provided:

Rom 4:16 >

Gal 3:9 >

Josh 6:25 >

Heb 11:31 >

**RESPECTING PERSONS  
AN UNGODLY ATTITUDE**



**RICH AND POOR  
DON'T JUDGE ON  
APPEARANCE**



**NO 'LITTLE' SINS  
ALL SIN IS EVIL**

On the scale below, where do you think our society would place these individuals? Draw them on!



Yet in God's eyes, there is no difference between them!

Despite being so different in appearance, what was the common feature between them? (James 2:24 provides a hint).

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**CONSISTENCY IS THE KEY**  
**WORDS AND ACTIONS**  
**MUST MATCH**



**FAITH AND WORKS**  
**DEAD WITHOUT EACH**  
**OTHER**

**2:19-26**

# **Faith And Works: One Without The Other?**

To illustrate the fact that we need both faith and works, James chose a faithful patriarch and a lowly harlot. What lesson from the start of the chapter (2:1) is he still trying to teach?

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Enough reading and writing; time to **DO** what James is talking about!



**RESPECTING PERSONS  
AN UNGODLY ATTITUDE**



**RICH AND POOR  
DON'T JUDGE ON  
APPEARANCE**



**NO 'LITTLE' SINS  
ALL SIN IS EVIL**

## The Chapter 2 Challenge:

**Get a group of two or three of your friends, and PRACTISE true religion:**

- > Identify a person in your meeting who never gets invited back to people's houses. Ask your parents to invite them back to yours for a meal (Don't be shy to tell your parents why!).
- > If you love God, you will love your neighbour - but do you ever talk to your friends about God? This month, when you are with your friends, try to bring God up in conversation - if in a group, suggest to do the readings. Make God part of your lives!
- > This month, try to move outside your normal circle of friends; make an effort to speak to 3 people you wouldn't talk to. You may be surprised by how interesting they are!

**Challenge themed around James 2:1,8-9**

**CONSISTENCY IS THE KEY  
WORDS AND ACTIONS  
MUST MATCH**



**FAITH AND WORKS  
DEAD WITHOUT EACH  
OTHER**



# CHAPTER 2 RECAP

**RESPECTING PERSONS  
AN UNGODLY ATTITUDE**

**RICH AND POOR  
DON'T JUDGE ON  
APPEARANCE**

**NO 'LITTLE' SINS  
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