

James 2:5-11

5. Listen, my beloved brethren: **has God not CHOSEN the POOR of this WORLD to be RICH in FAITH and HEIRS of the kingdom** which He promised to those who love him?

- **I Corinthians 1:26-29** "For you see your calling, brethren, that _____ many _____ according to the flesh, _____ many _____, not many _____, are called (chosen). But God has _____ the _____ things of the _____ to put to shame the wise, and God has _____ the _____ things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the _____ and the things which are _____ God has _____, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence."
- **Luke 6:20** "Then He lifted up His eyes toward His _____, and said, '_____ are you _____, for yours is the _____ of God.'"

Definition: "Chosen the POOR of this world to be RICH in faith and HEIRS of the kingdom" - Jesus said that the poor would be with us always, and God does not promise to make each one of us rich in this life. Poverty, along with sickness, death, and every perversion of God's original creation, is part of the "curse of sin" that this earth has been plunged into since Adam disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden. However, the time we spend in this earthly life is so short compared to all eternity with God, and the riches that He will give to us in His kingdom. We are not promised that God will remove this curse of poverty, pain and sickness until after Jesus returns and sets up His kingdom here on earth.

- **Revelation 21:4** "And God will wipe away every _____ from their _____; there shall be no more _____, nor _____, nor crying; and there shall be no more _____, for the former things have passed away."
- **I Samuel 2:8** "He raises the _____ from the _____ and lifts the beggar from the _____, to set them among _____ and make them _____ the throne of _____. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and He has set the world upon them."
- **Psalms 113:7-8** "He raises the _____ out of the dust, and lifts the _____ out of the ash heap, that He may _____ him with _____ - with the _____ of His people."

Note: When it says that God "lifts the needy out of the ash heap", the original Hebrew word translated "ash heap" here is "a pile of rubbish or filth, a dunghill". The King James Version uses "dunghill", which I like, as it is so descriptive of the mess of crap we so often make out of our lives.

Definition: "God has CHOSEN the FOOLISH things of the WORLD" - This wonderful, comforting Scripture in I Corinthians 1:26-29 is saying that **God has chosen us** (the foolish, weak, base and despised..... yes, that's us!) instead of the rich, powerful, famous people, the "celebrities" that "the world" values so much. **I don't mind being considered weak or foolish in the world's eyes**, as long as God Himself has chosen me to be with Him for all eternity! All the people whose lives and material possessions were shown and admired on TV shows such as "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" will be going to hell for all eternity, unless some of them repented and gave their lives to Jesus Christ. On the other hand, look how many

prison inmates, drug addicts and alcoholics, prostitutes and other **people who are despised and looked down on by the world have come to Christ** and had their lives turned around. The world doesn't understand why God would even want those people, but we see that He loves us all, and He gets the glory when one of us commits our life to Him. So, let's rejoice and give God the glory, because He has chosen us IN SPITE OF anything we could contribute, so don't feel bad that you're "not good enough" or feel that you are unworthy of God's love. Hallelujah! Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and **you can say, "I am a sinner! He came to SAVE me!"** God chooses the foolish, weak, base (lowly) and despised things of this world, so if you sometimes feel like you are too foolish, too weak, too lowly, or too despised for anyone to want you, you know **you are EXACTLY what God wants! Jesus said, "Without Me, you can do nothing"** (John 15:5), so rejoice and be happy that you have nothing to bring to God, or offer Him, and neither does anyone else.

- **Luke 7:37-39 & 47-48** "And behold, a _____ in the city who was a _____, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His _____ with her _____, and _____ them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and _____ them with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, 'This man, if He were a _____, would know _____ and what manner of _____ this is who is touching Him, for she is a _____.'" (Verses 47-48) "Therefore I say to you, her _____, which are _____, are _____, for she loved [Me] much. But to whom little is _____, the same loves [Me] _____.' And He said to her, 'Your _____ are _____.'"
- **Read Mark 14:1-9** (Verse 3) "And being in _____ at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very _____ oil of spikenard. And she broke the flask and _____ it on His head."
- **Matthew 26:6-7** "And when Jesus was in _____ at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster _____ of very costly fragrant oil, and she _____ it on His _____ as He sat at the table."

Definition: "At the house of Simon the LEPER" - We are told that the supper was held at the house of Simon, the Leper. This Simon is evidently one of the many lepers that **Jesus HEALED during His ministry**. Leprosy was a horrible, painful, incurable disease of Jesus' day, and those who had the disease (lepers) were **OUTCASTS from society**, because the disease was so contagious. Simon may have been giving the dinner in honor of Jesus out of GRATITUDE, because before Jesus healed him, he would not have been able to invite anyone to his house, because of the possibility of infection to others. Perhaps he had no wife, and that is why Martha was serving.

- **Read Luke 14:12-24** "Then He also said to him who invited Him, 'When you give a _____ or a _____, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor your _____ neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, _____ the _____, the maimed, the _____, the _____. And you will be _____, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.'"

6-7. But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

- **I Corinthians 11:21-22** "For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is _____ and another drunk. What? Do you not have

- houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and _____ those who have _____? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do _____ praise you."
- **Luke 16:19-25** "There was a certain _____ man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously (ate plenty of good food) every day. But there was a certain _____ named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the _____ man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the _____ died, and was carried by the _____ to Abraham's bosom. The _____ man also _____ and was buried. And being in _____ in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your _____ you received your _____ things, and likewise Lazarus _____ things; but now _____ is _____ and you are tormented.'"

8-9. If you really **fulfill the ROYAL LAW according to Scripture, 'You shall LOVE your neighbor as yourself,'** you do well; but **if you show partiality,** you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

- **Romans 13:8-10** "Owe no man anything except to _____ one another, for he who _____ another has _____ the _____. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not covet,' and if there is any other commandment, are all _____ up in this saying, 'You shall _____ your neighbor as yourself.' _____ does no _____ to a neighbor; therefore _____ is the _____ of the law."
- **Matthew 22:36-40** "Teacher, which is the great _____ in the _____?" Jesus said to him, 'You shall _____ the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the _____ and great commandment. And the _____ is like it: You shall _____ your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.'"

Definition: "Fulfill the ROYAL LAW" - Jesus is our King, so the "royal law" is His commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself" and to love one another as He loved us. If you love Jesus you will keep His commandments, and all the commandments are summed up in **"LOVE God and LOVE your neighbor as yourself"**. The Holy Spirit gives us the love of God in our hearts and the power to carry out the commandments, and keeping His commandments and **abiding in His LOVE** is proof that we belong to Him. So, it is a continuous cycle of **God pouring His love into us** so that we can keep His commandments, and our obeying His commandments keeps us abiding in His love.

- **I John 3:23** "And this is His _____, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and _____ one another, just as _____ commanded us."
- **John 15:12 & 17** "This is _____ commandment, that you _____ one another as I have _____ you." "These things I command you, that you _____ one another."
- **I John 2:7** "Brethren, I write no new _____ to you, but an _____ commandment which you have had from the _____. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning."

- **I John 3:11** "For this is the message that you heard from the _____, that we should _____ one another."

10-11. For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, '**Do not commit adultery,**' also said, '**Do not murder.**' Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

- **Matthew 19:16-23** "Now behold, one came and said to Him, 'Good Teacher, what _____ shall I do that I may have _____ life?' So He said to him, 'Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, _____ the _____.' He said to Him, 'Which ones?' Jesus said, "'You shall not _____", "You shall not commit _____," "You shall not _____," "You shall not bear false witness." "Honor your _____ and your _____," and "You shall _____ your _____ as yourself." The young man said to Him, '_____ these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still _____?' Jesus said to him, 'If you want to be _____, go, sell what you have and give to the _____, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow _____.' But when the young man heard that saying, he went away _____, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'Assuredly, I say to you that it is _____ for a _____ man to enter the kingdom of heaven.'"

Definition: "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God" -

The story of the Rich Young Ruler has always brought up questions. First, why did Jesus challenge the young man for calling Him good? I believe it was to make him stop and think, and to realize that Jesus could only be truly good if He were the Son of God, and this is where the young man's faith must reside. The young man must put his faith completely in the person of Jesus Christ Himself, and not in his own works. Secondly, Jesus challenges the young man on his statement that he has kept the commandments of God since his youth. By asking the young man to sell his possessions and give it all to the poor, Jesus is actually showing him that **he is NOT keeping these commandments: "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3) and "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 6:5).** Because the young man went away sorrowful, and did not follow Jesus, it was proof that his riches were his real "god", and he was unwilling to give them up to serve and love the true God with all his heart, soul and strength.

Definition: "Whoever shall keep the WHOLE LAW, and yet stumble in ONE POINT" - "The Law" refers to the Old Testament Law and commandments God gave to Moses and the Israelites. Keeping the Old Testament Law could **NEVER** give a person eternal life. **Salvation and eternal life HAS ALWAYS BEEN by FAITH in GOD.** The Law serves the purpose of SHOWING US HOW FAR WE ARE FROM GOD'S PERFECT STANDARD, and thus shows us that we CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES, and that **we NEED A SAVIOR!! The Law DEFINES SIN**, shows us how sinful we are, how destructive sin is in our lives, and how HORRIBLE sin is in God's sight. The Old Testament law was so strict that total one-hundred-percent obedience was required, and the only person who ever kept the law perfectly was Jesus Himself. None of us can do it!

- **Galatians 3:19-21** "What _____ then does the _____ serve? It was added because of transgressions (sins), till the Seed (Christ - see verse 16) should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator." (Verse 21) "Is the _____ then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a _____ given which could have given _____, truly righteousness would have been by the law."

- **Romans 7:7-8** "What shall we say then? Is the _____ sin? Certainly _____! On the contrary, I would not have _____ sin except through the _____. For I would not have _____ [*about*] covetousness unless the _____ had said, 'You shall not covet.'"