



SCRIPTURE: James

SERIES: The Book of James

TITLE: The Gospel Economy

BIG IDEA: The Gospel changes our value system as we see others the way Christ sees others and how we see ourselves.

TEXT

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” ⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

SWARTZ FBC LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE



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1. THE CURRENCY OF GOD’S ECONOMY IS HIS GLORY, NOT OURS.

- What does it mean to live with the glory of God as our meaning for existing?
 - o How does this bring our lives and everything in it to a place of sharp perspective?
- How does God’s glory practically change how we view ourselves?
- How does it change how we view others?
- Why is it tempting to advantage people who are more successful by the world’s standards?
- How do we safeguard ourselves from honoring one person and dishonoring another based on material wealth, power, and position?

Application Question: Are we assigning value based on what people possess or the image they bear?

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2. GOD’S ECONOMY REVERSES THE WORLD’S VALUE SYSTEM

- What practical things are we teaching our children so they might accurately see others the way God sees them?
- What clear differences are there between the world’s estimation of value and God’s economy of value?
- What are some subtle differences that might be more difficult to see?
- Was it wrong of the person in the story to honor the rich man?
 - o What was the mistake the person made in this story?
- How do we honor those who are otherwise dishonored?
- *Why do you think James chose to bring this topic up at this point?*

Application Question: In the Gospel, God has welcomed us. To what degree has this truth changed my view of others?