

FBC  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
SUBANG JAYA

GAMMA21

GAMMA  
SERIES

BOOK  
OF

# JAMES

A FAITH THAT WORKS

Study 7

The Christian and the Poor

James 2:5-17





**WHAT IS GLORY**

**WHICH METRIC IN WHICH TO JUDGE**

# DISCRIMINATION REVEALS DOUBLE STANDARDS

Wealth

Race

Strength

Beauty

Pedigree

Wisdom

Education

# DOING COMES FROM BEING

Charity because  
it is Christ's  
glory



Charity in order  
to gain glory



Uday.G.Mohite\_Illustrations

# MIRROR ANALOGY

See image of self but forget

We have the perfect picture of ourselves  
Perfect image of reality  
Frees us to be our true selves  
Glory of Christ in our lives and not fake glory



**THE CHRISTIAN AND THE  
POOR**



# THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

- 1) We should not discriminate against the poor because God regards them highly
- 2) Our discrimination insults the poor
- 3) It is illogical to honor the very people who usually do you harm and persecute believers
- 4) Discrimination against the poor breaks the heart of God's law
- 5) We cannot pick and choose which laws to obey
- 6) How we treat the poor is a life and death matter
- 7) How we treat the poor is a function of our faith



## THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

James 2:5-7 Listen, 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? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

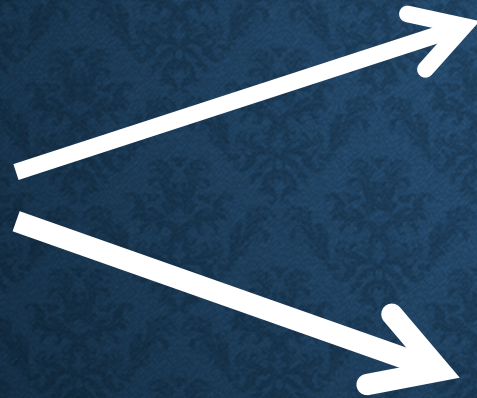
# 1. WE SHOULD NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THE POOR BECAUSE GOD REGARDS THEM HIGHLY

Aorist imperative

James 2:5 **Listen**, 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?

# OT BACKGROUND

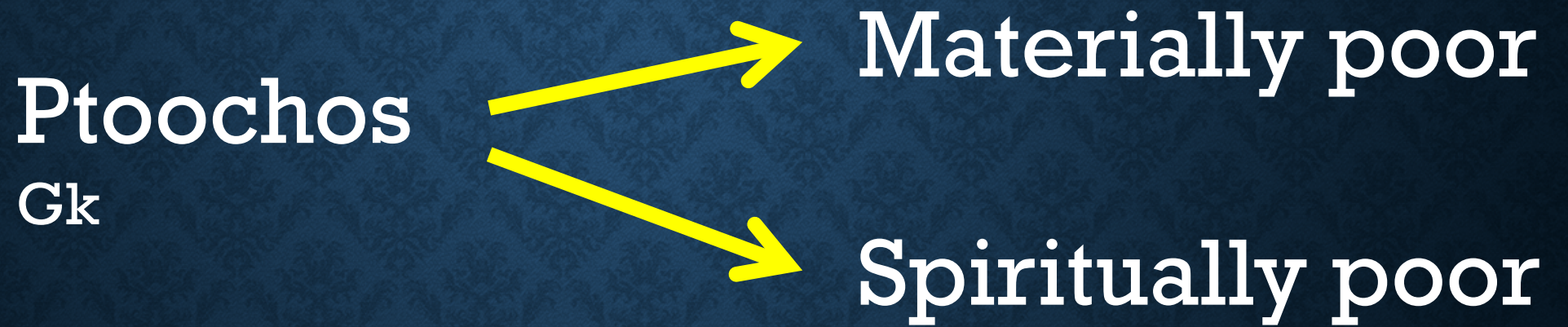
Anaw  
Heb



Materially poor

people who are "poor" in a spiritual sense: humble and meek, recognizing their utter dependence on the Lord and trusting him for deliverance

# SEMANTIC RANGE OF PTOOCHOS



Luke 6:20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Matthew 5:2-3 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

# THERE IS A REASON GOD CHOOSES THE POOR

James 2:5 Listen, 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?

A stone sculpture of a muscular man, likely a blacksmith, holding a hammer. The man is depicted with a large, muscular torso and a smaller figure on top of his head. The background is a blue sky with white clouds.

**THE MYTH OF THE SELF MADE MAN**

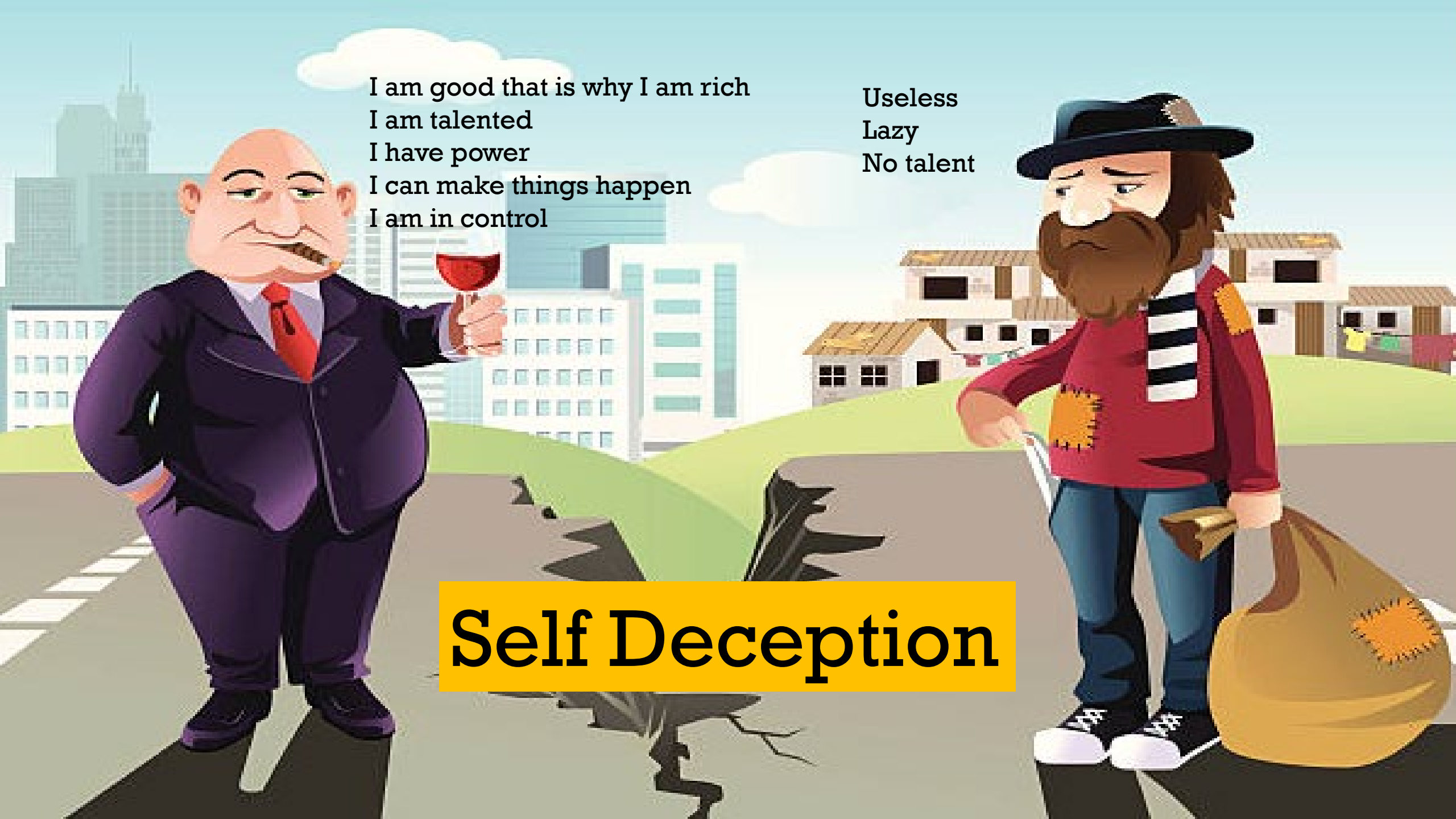
**HUMANS ARE BY NATURE POOR**



I am good that is why I am rich  
I am talented  
I have power  
I can make things happen  
I am in control

Useless  
Lazy  
No talent

**Self Deception**



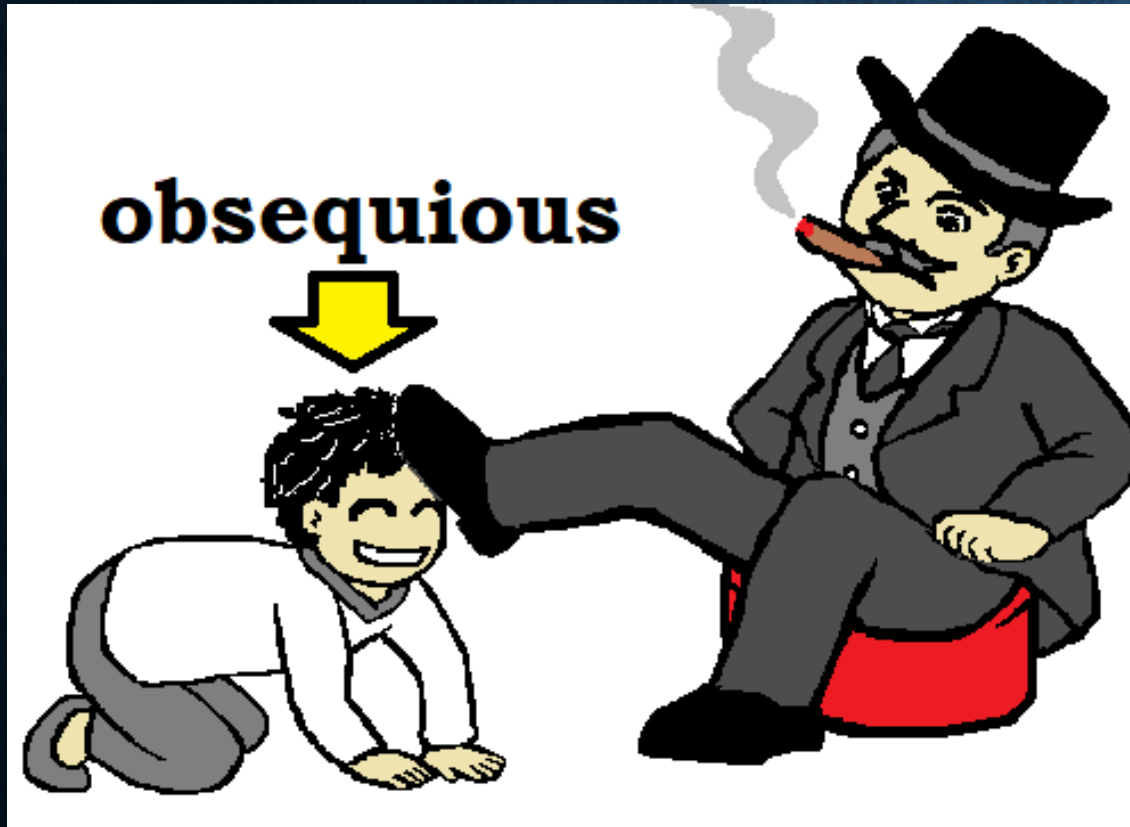
# DECEPTION

James 1:16-17 (ESV) Do not **be deceived**, my beloved brothers. 17 **Deceived about God's character** gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights

James 1: **Deceived self in only hearing and not acting** hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.

James **Deceived self in outward religiousity with no change in character nor compassion** not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart,

# DECEIVED... BECOME JUDGES WITH EVIL THOUGHTS



Personal benefit

They are better than the  
poor



## **JESUS THOUGHT OF THE RICH**

**Matthew 19:24-25 Again  
I tell you, it is easier for  
a camel to go through  
the eye of a needle than  
for a rich person to  
enter the kingdom of  
God.”**



# POVERTY IS THE PRIMARY FACT OF HUMAN EXISTENCE

Born beggars

Birth is a gift

Nurtured by parent

**Rich people have forgotten this**

taught language

Taught morality

## **PRE-OCCUPATION**

**Luke 12:15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”**

A man with a beard, wearing a blue cap and a blue polo shirt, is shown in profile, looking thoughtful with his hand to his face. The background is a blurred green golf course.

# 5 MOST COMMON REGRETS OF BILLIONAIRES

- Not jumping on great opportunities
- Not living in the present
- Not starting soon enough
- Not being bolder
- Not changing fast enough
- Mistakes and failures are necessary

## **IGNORE REALITY**

**Luke 12:20-21 But God said to him, Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."**



1 Corinthians 1:26-29 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

# THE POOR HAVE INSIGHT THE RICH DO NOT HAVE

Matthew 5:2-3 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## 2. OUR DISCRIMINATION INSULTS THE POOR

James 2:6-7 But you have dishonored the poor man.

Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

**GOD**

**CHOICE**



**We**

6 But you have dishonored the poor man.



## CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN MEDIA PUNDIT



Ann Coulter

*"a Christian first and a  
mean-spirited, bigoted  
conservative second,  
and don't you ever  
forget it."*

# EBOLA DOC'S CONDITION DOWNGRADED TO 'IDIOTIC'



Ann Coulter

- Waste of resources to spend on the missionary
- Better spent ministering in USA more impact of gospel
- Charity begins at home
- Trying to be hero



Dr Kent Brantley



*"If Dr. Brantly had practiced at Cedars-Sinai hospital in Los Angeles and turned one single Hollywood power-broker to Christ, he would have done more good for the entire world than anything he could accomplish in a century spent in Liberia,"*



# JONATHAN EDWARDS

, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,”

Deliberately choose the poor  
Not wait for poor to come to us  
It insults them  
If you were in that position how  
would you like to be treated?





# POOR DESERVE GREATER HONOR

1 Corinthians 12:22-25 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

### **3. IT IS ILLOGICAL TO HONOR THE VERY PEOPLE WHO USUALLY DO YOU HARM AND PERSECUTE BELIEVERS?**

James 2:6-7 But you have dishonored the poor man.

Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?



Elon Musk might have more than 82 million Twitter followers





# ELON MUSK BUYS TWITTER

A photograph of Elon Musk with his arms outstretched, standing in front of a large, light blue Twitter bird logo on a dark blue background. He is wearing a black leather jacket over a black t-shirt. The text is overlaid on the image.

"That is why I bought Twitter, I didn't do it because it would be easy, I didn't do it to make more money."

"important for the future of civilisation to have a common digital town square".

# TWITTER LAYOFFS

Today



Twitter Sacks  
"Roughly 80%" Of  
Staff,





**He overpaid—44 billion**

"Regarding Twitter's reduction in force, unfortunately there is no choice when the company is losing over \$4M/day,"

**Elon Musk fired Twitter's head of sales  
after she refused to sack more  
employees**



**Robin Wheeler-Head of Sales**



**OOPS. TWITTER IS  
ALREADY TRYING TO  
REHIRE WORKERS ELON  
MUSK FIRED DAYS AGO,  
SOURCES SAY**

*"Important to admit  
when I'm wrong &  
firing them was truly  
one of my biggest  
mistakes."*

# **THEY DON'T RESPECT PEOPLE**

People are commodities

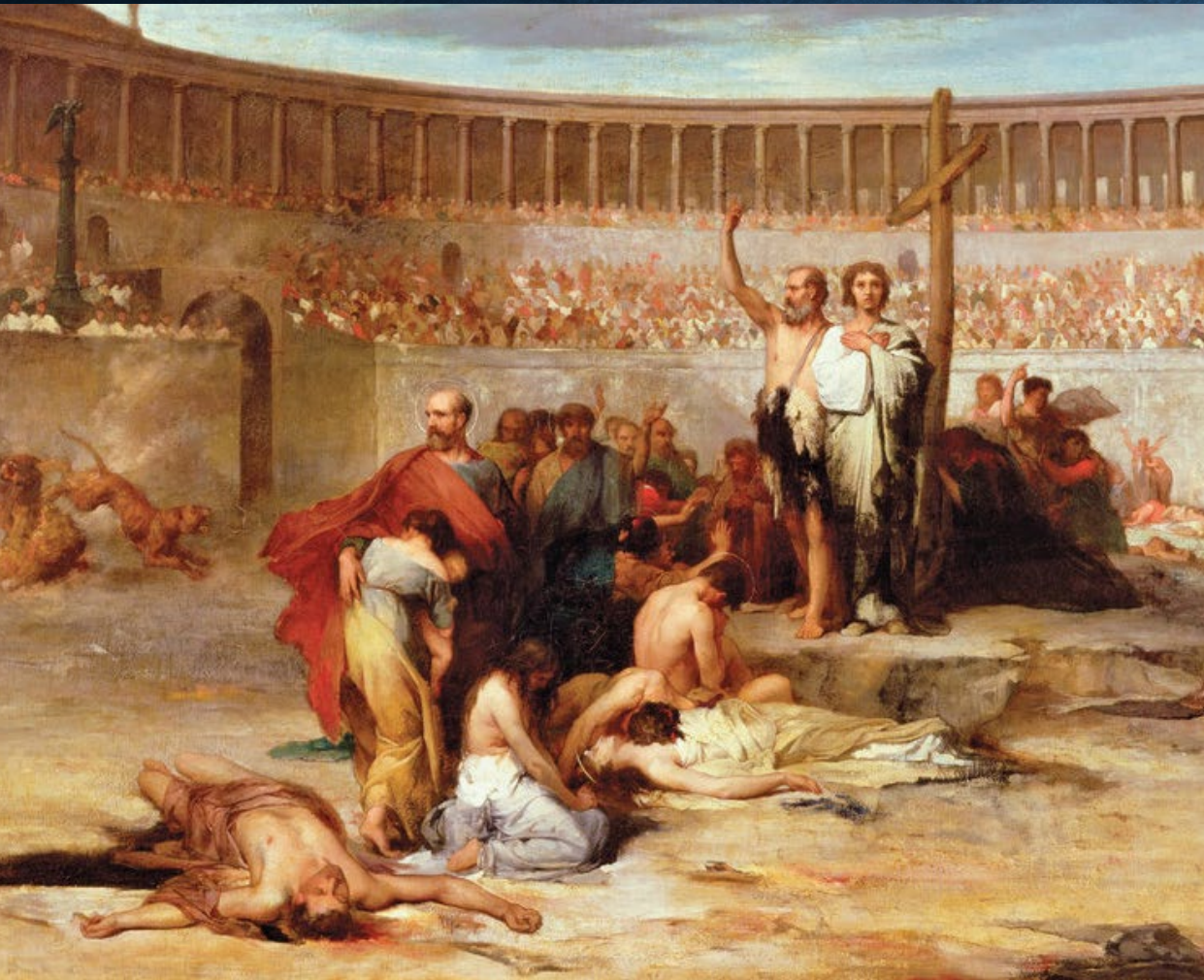
James 2:6-7 But you have dishonored the poor man.

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# IT IS ILLOGICAL TO HONOR THE VERY PEOPLE WHO PERSECUTE BELIEVERS

James 2:6-7 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

# AUTHORITY AND POSITION



## 4. DISCRIMINATION BREAKS THE

Highlighted by Jesus Mt 12:28-31

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and **heirs of the kingdom**,

R

James 2:8-9 If you really fulfill **the royal law**

according to the Scripture, "You shall love

**your neighbor as yourself,** you are

The care expended on  
ourselves

well. **9 But if you show partiality,** you are

**committing sin and are convicted by the law  
as transgressors**

## PAUL APPLIES THIS—ROYAL LAW FULFILLED THROUGH LOVE

Galatians 5:13-15 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.



# WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE

Serve one another



Bite and Devour one another



**THE RIGHT THING TO DO**

**THE POOR HAS THE GREATEST NEED**

**EQUALITY**

**EQUITY**



Deuteronomy 15:7-8 “If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, 8 but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be

# LOVE NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF = FAIRNESS

2 Corinthians 8:13-14 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness 14 your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness

# BASIS OF FAIRNESS

James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

James 2:5 has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom

*Partiality is an affront to God,  
not an amiable weakness.*

Charles Leslie Mitton,

Mount  
Gerizim

Deut 27-28

Mount  
Ebal

Blessings  
Royal Law

Curses  
Sin of partiality



## 5. WE CANNOT PICK AND CHOOSE WHICH LAWS TO OBEY

James 2:10-11 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. 11 For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law



Indivisibility of the Law all parts equal to the whole

Lying

Theft

Murder

Adultery

Coveting



A dramatic scene from a religious painting. In the center, a man with long dark hair, wearing a brown robe with white sleeves, is kneeling and pointing his right hand towards a woman. The woman, with long blonde hair, is prostrate on the floor, wearing a white, off-the-shoulder dress, with her hands clasped in prayer. To the left, a figure in a dark, ornate robe with gold trim is partially visible, with hands reaching towards the man. To the right, another figure in a dark robe with gold trim is also visible, with hands reaching towards the woman. In the background, several other figures in various robes are standing, some holding staffs or scepters. The scene is set in a grand, dimly lit interior with heavy drapery and architectural details. The overall mood is solemn and dramatic.

**WE TEND TO OPERATE ON  
HIERARCHY OF LAWS**



## CHURCH IS SHOCKED

- Adultery
- Sexual sins
- Homosexuality

**Researchers find  
wealthy people tend to  
overlook those around  
them**





Isaiah 1:15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

# MURDERERS –LITERAL OR METAPHORICAL?

Isaiah 1:21-23 How the faithful city has become a whore, she who was full of justice! **Righteousness** lodged in her, but now **murderers**. . . . .

Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them

# **EVIL-OPPRESSING-IGNORING THE POOR**

Isaiah 1:16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;  
cease to do evil, 17 learn to do good; seek justice,  
correct oppression; bring justice to the  
fatherless, plead the widow's cause

# **SERIOUS MATTER**

**Social injustice to the poor is just as  
bad a murder or adultery**



A man wearing a white shirt and a black cap is speaking at a podium. The podium features the Malaysian coat of arms. He is gesturing with his right hand. The background is a dark, patterned wall.

RM 1 Trillion Debt

*The poor who  
will suffer*

## 6. HOW WE TREAT THE POOR IS A LIFE AND DEATH MATTER

James 2:12-13 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

A person wearing a dark suit and black shoes stands in a room with a concrete wall and floor. Their right ankle is restrained by a metal cuff connected to a heavy black chain, which is attached to a large, dark, textured stone ball. The scene is dimly lit, emphasizing the weight and restriction of the ball and chain.

**Law**

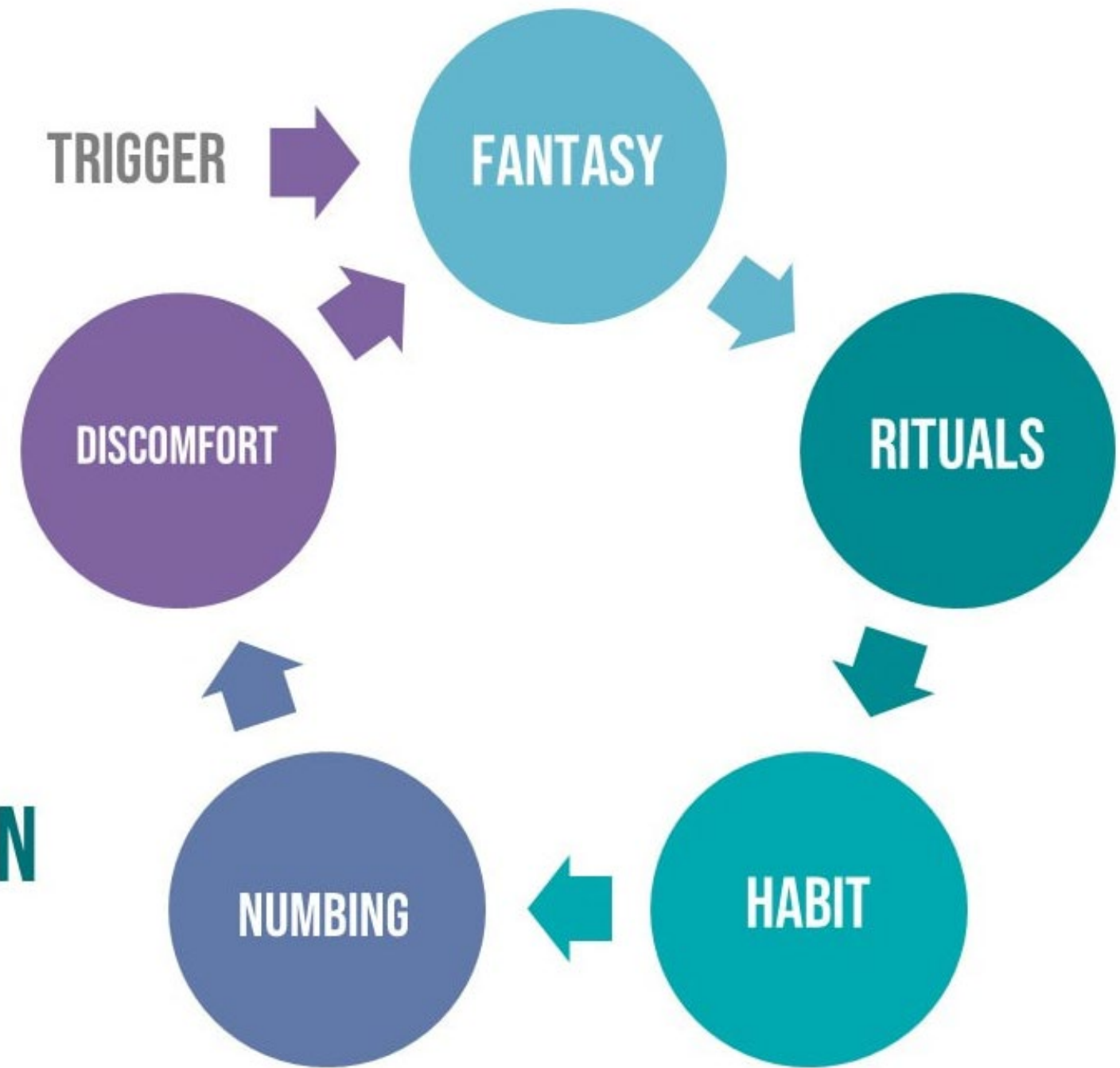
**List of Do's and Don't's  
Punishments**

**Liberty**

**Freedom to do as I please**

**SEXUAL  
FREEDOM**

# THE ADDICTION CYCLE



**Addiction**



**Liberty**






**Law**

Reflection of the  
Image of God

**Liberty**

We are made in the  
Image of God  
True freedom is when we  
are enabled by His Spirit  
to reflect His image

The image features two hands, one on the left and one on the right, both raised and held in black metal shackles. The shackles are thick and have a textured, scale-like appearance. A bright, glowing spark or burst of light emanates from the point where the two shackles meet in the center, creating a shimmering, particle-like effect. The background is a soft, warm gradient of orange and yellow, suggesting a sunrise or sunset sky. The overall composition is symmetrical and evokes a sense of liberation and divine spark.

Freed from the  
penalty of the Law  
Freed to obey the  
Royal Law

Freed to reflect our  
destiny..Image of God



# Royal Law

## Love the Poor

Matthew 5:7 (ESV)

For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

The mercy we show to the poor is the evidence of our own triumph over judgment.  
The mercy shown to the poor is the evidence of our own receipt of mercy and triumph over judgement



# JONATHAN EDWARDS

, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,”

“It is not a just a small duty, but a great duty — and even heaven and hell lie in the balance with how we respond to the poor”

## **MERCILESS JUDGEMENT ON THOSE WITHOUT MERCY**

Matthew 25:41-43 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me

## 7. HOW WE TREAT THE POOR IS A FUNCTION OF OUR FAITH

James 2:14-17 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead

# TRUE SPIRITUALITY



## Speech control

James 1:26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

## Social action

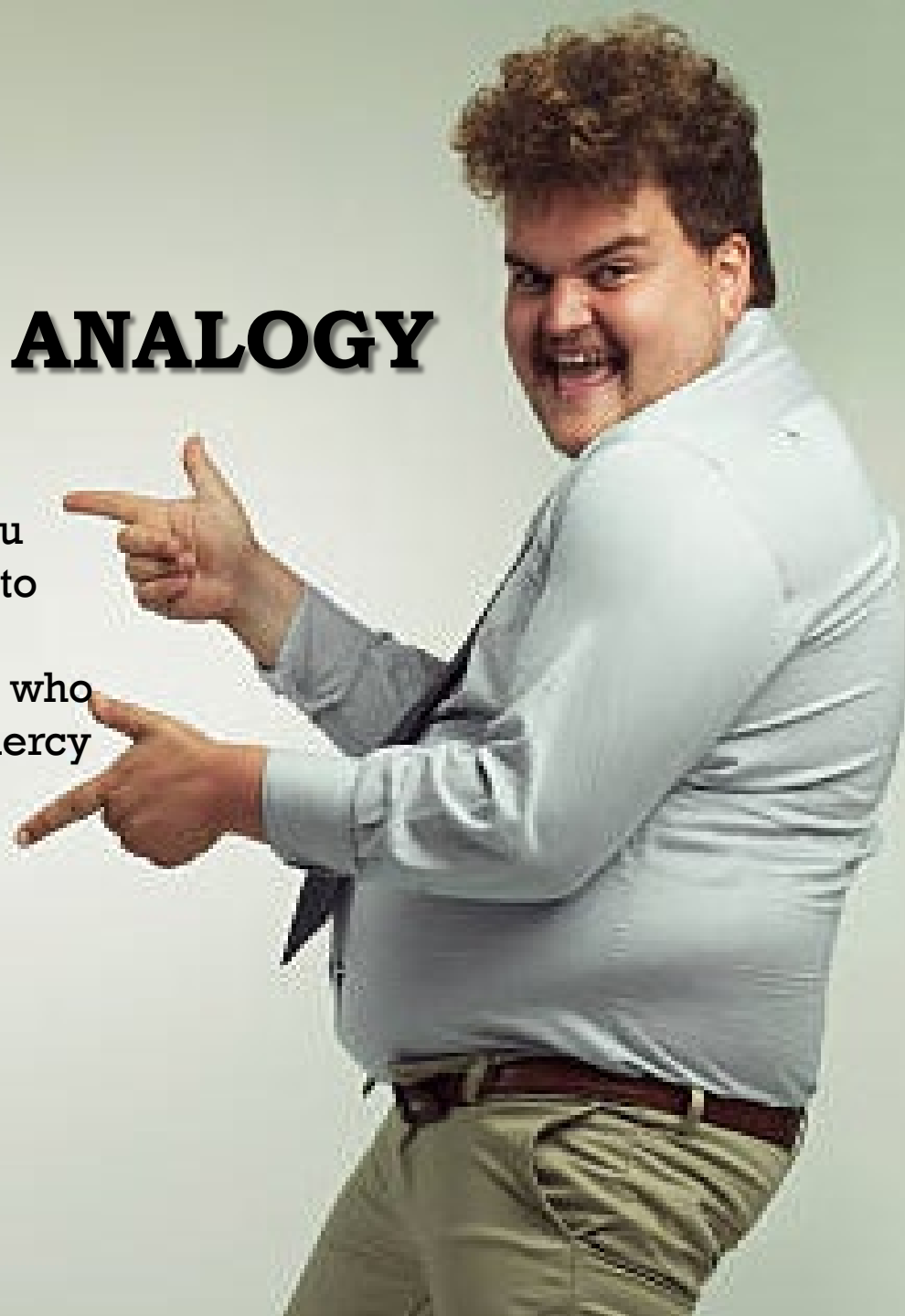
James 1:7 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction

## Personal holiness

James 1:7b and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

# MIRROR ANALOGY

Knowing who you  
are enables you to  
do or obey  
We are a people who  
have received mercy



# TRUE PICTURE



Radically sinful

Reduce self reliance and pride  
Cant be a Christian by trying harder

Radically exalted



Increase Christ reliance and faith

# THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

- 1) We should not discriminate against the poor because God regards them highly
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