

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for February 13-14, 1999**

**"Rich Man, Poor Man"**

**Dale Whitehead**

**James 2:1-13**

The Principle (James 2:1)

For us to profess faith in the Gospel of our glorious Lord Jesus Christ while holding an attitude of personal favoritism is contradictory and incompatible.

The Example (James 2: 2-4)

In order to appreciate James' emphasis on material wealth or lack thereof in this passage, it is necessary to understand that the vast majority of earthly converts to Christianity were Jewish and poor (Acts 2:44-45, 4:34-37).

The word for "meeting" is the Greek word SUNAGOGEN, which literally means "synagogue" or in other words a "place of meeting."

The phrase "with a gold ring" literally means "gold fingered." The term does not suggest just one ring but rather a finger laden with gold rings.

"Fine" means "bright" or "shining" and probably refers to the glittering color of his clothes.

The word "dirty" (RHUPARA) means "shabby, worn unsightly." As a poor laboring man, he probably had only one garment.

The assembly's different responses to the rich man and the poor man exposed their practice of favoritism. They were judging people purely based on meaningless external criteria.

Their motives were evil because they were self serving.