# **Two Sets of Jones’**

James 1:9-11

# Context

James is offering divine wisdom to Christians who are scattered abroad the Roman empire facing various trials, difficulties, and adversities. Both rich and poor Christians worshiped together in the assemblies to which James wrote. James points out that trials come to both groups. Most Christians recognize poverty as a trial and would readily see the need for reliance upon the Lord in economic deprivation. Poverty should not allow Christians to become numb, destroy their spirit and joy in life, and become bitter against those who have more and seek to take some of what they have. James also reminds us that riches are also a trial—a terribly dangerous one. The danger of assuming that Christians should expect riches and that riches must mean God's blessing is a real danger. Only with divinely given wisdom can we truly have God’s perspective our financial status.

# Bible Verse

**James 1:9–11 CSB**

Let the brother of humble circumstances boast in his exaltation,

but let the rich boast in his humiliation because he will pass away like a flower of the field.

For the sun rises and, together with the scorching wind, dries up the grass; its flower falls off, and its beautiful appearance perishes. In the same way, the rich person will wither away while pursuing his activities.

**Having \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than having \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!**

Do you really believe your spiritual riches are better than material riches?

1. **Consider having \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 9)**

**Calvin: Commentaries 2. Freedom, Love, Equality**

Since it is the highest and incomparable dignity to be admitted to the society of angels, and even to be made companions to Christ himself, anyone who estimates this favor of God justly will look at everything else which comes his way with equal indifference. Therefore neither poverty nor contempt, nor nakedness, nor hunger, nor thirst, will make his spirit so anxious that he will not be able to comfort himself by saying, “Since the Lord has given me what really matters, I must bear the loss of all lesser things with a serene mind.” This is how a lowly brother ought to glory in his high dignity: if he be acceptable to God, his adoption alone is enough reason for happiness; he ought not to be too much troubled because his state in this life is less than prosperous.

**Hebrews 12:22–24 CSB**

Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God (the heavenly Jerusalem), to myriads of angels, a festive gathering,

to the assembly of the firstborn whose names have been written in heaven, to a Judge, who is God of all, to the spirits of righteous people made perfect,

and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which says better things than the blood of Abel.

1. **Consider having \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 10)**

**Proverbs 18:11 CSB**

The wealth of the rich is his fortified city; in his imagination it is like a high wall.

**Mark 10:21–27 CSB**

Looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, “You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

But he was dismayed by this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”

The disciples were astonished at his words. Again Jesus said to them, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

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.”

They were even more astonished, saying to one another, “Then who can be saved?”

Looking at them, Jesus said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God, because all things are possible with God.”

**1 Timothy 6:17 CSB**

Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy.

**3. Consider that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (v. 11)**

**Jeremiah 9:23–24 CSB**

“‘This is what the Lord says: The wise person should not boast in his wisdom; the strong should not boast in his strength; the wealthy should not boast in his wealth.

But the one who boasts should boast in this: that he understands and knows me— that I am the Lord, showing faithful love, justice, and righteousness on the earth, for I delight in these things. This is the Lord’s declaration.

# Pray

“Dear Jesus, I confess I am a sinner and deserve judgment and hell, but I believe You love, came to this earth for me, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross for my sins. I believe God raised you from the dead to forgive me. Please forgive me, come into my life, and grant me eternal life in You name. Help me to glorify you in all I do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

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**Proverbs 30:8–9 CSB**

Keep falsehood and deceitful words far from me. Give me neither poverty nor wealth; feed me with the food I need.

Otherwise, I might have too much and deny you, saying, “Who is the Lord?” or I might have nothing and steal, profaning the name of my God.