

RICH MAN, POOR MAN

JAMES 1:9-11

JAMES 1:9-11

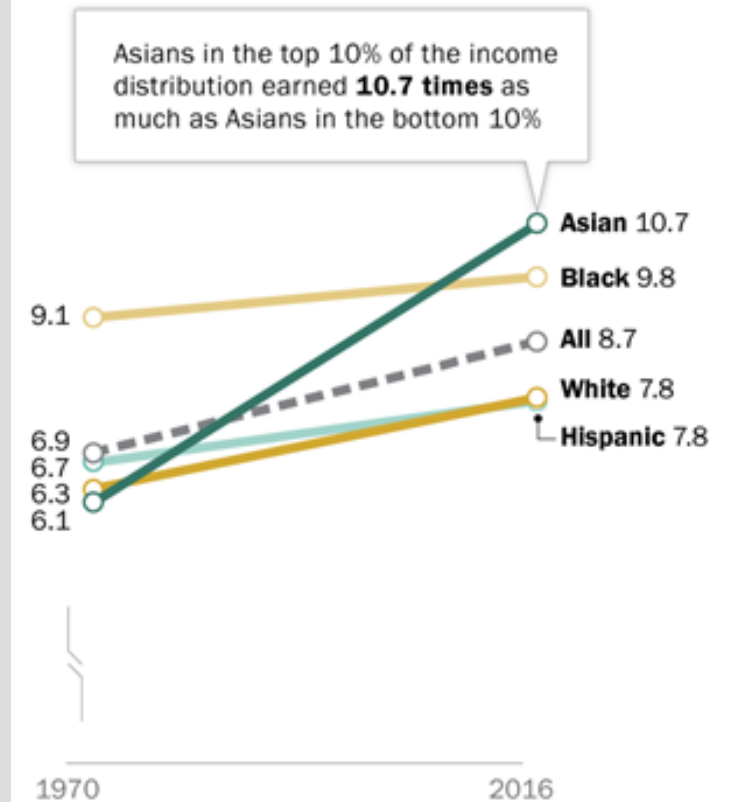
⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

ECONOMIC DISPARITY

- “Today, income inequality in the U.S. is greatest among Asians. From 1970 to 2016, the gap in the standard of living between Asians near the top and the bottom of the income ladder nearly doubled, and the distribution of income among Asians transformed from being one of the most equal to being the most unequal among America’s major racial and ethnic groups.”
- BY [RAKESH KOCHHAR](#) AND [ANTHONY CILLUFFO](#). Income Inequality in the U.S. Is Rising Most Rapidly Among Asians, 7/12/18

From lowest to highest: Income inequality in U.S. increased most among Asians from 1970 to 2016

Ratio of income at the 90th percentile to income at the 10th percentile



Note: Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics and are single-race only in 2016. Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. Income is adjusted for household size. See Methodology for details.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1970 decennial census and 2016 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

“Income Inequality in the U.S. Is Rising Most Rapidly Among Asians”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

JAMES DOBSON

- “It’s a feeling hopelessness that we call **‘inferiority.’** It’s that awful awareness that nobody likes you, that you’re not as good as other people, that you’re a failure, a loser, a personal disaster; that you’re ugly, or unintelligent, or don’t have as much ability as someone else. It’s that depressing feeling of **worthlessness.**” *(Preparing For Adolescents, p. 13)*

**“THREE THINGS THAT TEENAGERS
MUST HAVE IN ORDER TO FEEL
GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES:”**

- Dissatisfied with some feature of their bodies (ugly, unattractive) – no one posts ugly pictures on Instagram
- Unintelligent & dumb
- Measuring worth by money

**I. THE GOSPEL IS THE GREAT
EQUALIZER BETWEEN THE
POOR AND RICH (9)**

*⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his
exaltation, ^{10a} and the rich in his humiliation,*

**THE PRINCIPLE: THE MATERIALLY
POOR CAN BOAST IN BEING
SPIRITUALLY SIGNIFICANT
THROUGH SALVATION**

- *9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,*

ISN'T BOASTING A SIN?

- **James 4:16** As it is, you **boast** in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. (ESV)
- **Romans 3:27** ²⁷ Can we **boast**, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. (NLT)
- **Ephesians 2:9** Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can **boast** about it. (NLT)

WE'RE BOASTING ABOUT CHRIST, NOT OURSELVES!

- Romans 3:27 and Ephesians 2:9 states we can't boast about anything **we did** for our salvation, but James gives us encouragement to boast about what **Christ does** through our salvation.

“BOAST” = KAUCHASTHO = GLORY, BRAG

- D. Edmond Hiebert: “a strong personal reaction, a feeling of pride or exultation in the condition mentioned” (*The Epistle Of James*, p. 89)
- Spiros Zopdhiates: “to profess loudly something that you have a right to be proud of” (*The Epistle Of James and the Life of Faith*, p. 46)

EPHESIANS 1:7,11

- ⁷ In him we have **redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the **riches of his grace**, ⁸ which he **lavished** upon us, ... ¹¹ In him we have obtained an **inheritance**,

**THE CONTRAST: THE
MATERIALLY RICH CAN
BOAST IN BEING WORLDLY
DEMEANED THROUGH
SALVATION**

- *10a and the rich in his humiliation,*

THE RICH ARE **SAVED** AND **SPARED** FROM THE **SCAM** OF WEALTH

- **Mark 4:19** but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.
- **Luke 12:15** And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

I TIMOTHY 6:9-10

- ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

II. THE GOSPEL IS THE GREAT ETERNALIZER ON WHAT REALLY MATTERS IN LIFE

10^b because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.

11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

THE EXAMPLE: THE MATERIAL THINGS IN THIS WORLD ARE EPHEMERAL

- *10^b because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. 11^a For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes.*



THE MORAL: THE MATERIAL PURSUITS OF THE RICH ARE EMPTY

- *11b So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.*

CONCLUSION:

- **Become spiritually rich by trusting in Christ's salvation**
 - **2 Corinthians 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.
- **Boast to others in what Christ has done for you through salvation.**