



## Jacob 2.<sup>17</sup>— Meditation

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Think of your brethren like unto yourselves, and be familiar with all and free with your substance, that they may be rich like unto you.

Jesus speaks about our treatment of others in terms of the “neighbor.” His expectations are very high. Jacob, on the other hand, speaks of our treatment of others in terms of ourselves and the “brother,” or family member. We are to consider others and treat others—specifically the vulnerable poor—as we would be treated and as we would treat our own family members. Most of us are “free” and “familiar” in our spending for our personal needs and wants. We are also often “free” and “familiar” in distributing our economic resources to family members. Parents, for example, often spend many years of labor and give much thought to leaving their children an inheritance. They do so in hopes that their children will be as well off, if not better off than they.

This is the sort of attitude toward vulnerable members of society that the Lord expects of those who would call themselves disciples of Jesus. In assisting others, our goal is not only to alleviate suffering. Our goal is to bring the disadvantaged up to our level.

Such a familiar attitude toward our fellow citizens—“brethren,” by Jacob’s reckoning—not only dictates one’s personal and private activities in relation to the poor, it also dictates the political leaders one votes for and the public policies one supports.

When we consider the private behavior of individuals, and the economic policies of the nation in light of the Lord’s economic expectations as Jacob outlines them, it seems that we must conclude America to be in violation of godly economic principles and in open rebellion against God.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

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