

**Being Vulnerable**  
**James 1:9-11; Phil.2:5-8**

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Orientation vs. disorientation (W. Brueggemann)
- 0.2 We are combination: image of God + limits

1.0 Made In the Image

- 1.1 Communicable attributes incl. knowledge, wisdom, love, dominion, holiness
- 1.2 We don't simply carry God's image, we *are* God's image (A. Hoekema)
- 1.3 Keep recalling this, with respect to yourself and others

2.0 Made Vulnerable

- 2.1 How mighty are the mighty, really?
- 2.2 James specific: *tapeinos* (humble/lowly) vs. *plousios* (rich, exalted)
- 2.3 Churches/synagogues sometimes join economic opposites, with distinct temptations
  - of the wealthy
  - of those not so
- 2.4 These extremes expressed in Prov.30:8-9
- 2.5 But couldn't someone be rich *and* holy, or poor *and* ungodly?
- 2.6 Reminder to the wealthy (1:10-11)

3.0 The Importance of This for Us Today

- 3.1 Our congregation, like James' circle, shows diversity here
- 3.2 Financial distress can be opportunity to develop
- 3.3 Jesus bridged heaven's purity and earth's messiness (Phil.2:5-8)
- 3.4 Good reasons to remain humble (Matt.5:45)

*Next week (Feb.7) – Like Tempered Steel*  
*James 1:12-18*

## James 1:9-11 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup> Now the brother *or sister* of humble *circumstances* is to glory in his high position; <sup>10</sup> but the rich person *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so also the rich person, in the midst of his pursuits, will die out.

## Philippians 2:5-8 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, as He *already* existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself *by* taking the form of a bond-servant *and* being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.