

Series Title: Evidence of Genuine Faith: Faith That Works
Message Title: Walking in Wisdom
Text: James 3:13-18

James 3:13-18

¹³ *Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.*

¹⁴ *But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.* ¹⁵ *This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.* ¹⁶ *For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.*

¹⁷ *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.* ¹⁸ *And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

- From connecting to God
- To treating people equally
- To controlling the tongue to learning to be wise.
- Next week we will look at handling arguments

James asks the question to each of us: Who is wise and understanding?

The Question:

James 3:13 *Who is wise and understanding among you?*

- Wisdom and Understanding
- James seems to think this is important in our relationships with others.

What is Wisdom? ...The soundness of an action or decision

- The quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise.
- The soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment.
- Wisdom – *Sophia* –skill (human and divine), insight and intelligence
- *Sophia* – *saphes*- clear, clarity
 - Sophistication – the art of using wisdom / philosophy –an affection for wisdom

The source is not within or about yourself

James 3:14-16

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

Three types of ineffective Wisdom

Earthly – common sense

- For one's own use
- Bitter and jealous – selfish
- Ambitious

Unspiritual - intellectual

- Boastful
- Intellectual games that obfuscate the truth

Demonic – Filled in Pride and lies

- The father of lies and envy
- The pride that desires to rise

Wisdom from Below – earthly, unspiritual, demonic

- Bitter jealousy
- Selfish ambition in hearts
- Boasting
- Speaking lies
- Produces disorder and vile practices

The Source of True and Effective Wisdom is God – From Above

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Ecclesiastes 2:26

For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy

Daniel 2:20-21

²⁰ *“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. ²¹ He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.”*

The Beginning of Wisdom: Where Do I Start?

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Psalms 111:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Isaiah 11:2

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

HOME BASE - ABIDE

Think of a baseline or a home base for your thoughts and feelings

When you are just driving around or not engaged in an activity where your thoughts are?

Where you abide – your home

- Shopping, housing projects, gaming, work assignments
- Our base point should be on the Lord

- He is the HOME of where we actually abide
- We abide in Him and He abides in us

The Importance of Seeking Wisdom

Proverbs 3:13-14

¹³ *Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, ¹⁴ for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.*

Proverbs 19:20

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

- "Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise."

The Answer: Actions, Attitude, Attributes

James 3:13

...By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

The Actions: Good Conduct

- How you handle people and situations
- How you conduct yourself

Philippians 1:27

Only let your manner(conduct) of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

The actions: Good Works

- are shown

Eph. 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Col. 3:23-24

²³ *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

The Attitude:

- Meekness in wisdom
 - In meekness OF wisdom
 - Not meekness and wisdom
 - Wisdom is meek
- Meekness is a humility

Proverbs 11:2

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 15:33

The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom ,and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 18:12

Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.

1 Peter 5:5

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

We see the actions lived out in wisdom are good conduct and works

We see the attitude of wisdom is humility

How does James describe the Attributes of wisdom from above?

The Attributes

Pure

- No deceit or omission

Peaceable

- Desire for agreement

Gentle

- No abuse

Open to reason

- Willing to hear and process

Merciful

- Not winning a point in the discussion
- Forgive quickly

Produces good fruit

- Friendship and shared knowledge

It is impartial

- No discrimination – applies to all

It is sincere

- Not contrived
- Authentic and true

The Results: What you sow is what you reap.

James 3:18

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

The harvest is righteousness

- Sowing peaceful seeds
 - The peaceful person is sowing peace...not dissention

**Prayer –
Nathan Cook**

Author of "Storm the Gates: Provoking the Church to Fulfill God's Mission"

Heavenly Father,

I adore You for Your infinite wisdom, which You have displayed in the beauty of creation and the unfolding story of redemption. You are the author of all knowledge and truth, and Your wisdom surpasses all understanding.

I confess my own lack of wisdom and my tendency to rely on my own understanding instead of seeking Your guidance. Forgive me, Lord, for the times when I have been prideful and failed to acknowledge Your wisdom in my life.

I thank You for the gift of Your Word, which is a treasure trove of wisdom and guidance. I am grateful for the godly examples of those who have walked in wisdom before me, and for the Holy Spirit who leads me in truth.

I humbly come before You now, asking for the gift of wisdom. Grant me a discerning heart and a steadfast mind to navigate the complexities of life. Teach me to value Your wisdom above all else and to seek it diligently in Your Word and through prayer. Help me to walk in humility, knowing that true wisdom comes from You alone.

In every circumstance, may I be guided by Your wisdom and make decisions that honor You and bring glory to Your name. Through Your wisdom, may I be a light in this world, reflecting Your love and grace to others.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.