

# Faith's Wisdom

## Lesson for Sunday, December 3, 2023

### INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Remind the class of the memory verse for this chapter: 3:10.
  - Go back and review the three memory verses. Remember that these keystone verses will help us remember the overall teaching of James.
  - Have some fun and work on the memory verses together...
- ⇒ One thing we are seeing is that James is extremely practical. As a pastor, he understood that we face challenges, trials and temptations in our everyday lives.
- ⇒ Because of this, James now turns his attention to the practical issues of wisdom, friendship and speech (again) to show us how our faith is to impact our ordinary, everyday life in this world.
- ⇒ In today's text, 3:13-18, James presents two pictures of wisdom for us to consider.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. Worldly Wisdom (vs. 13-16)
  - a. James gives a strong picture of what worldly wisdom contains and where it will take us if we insist on following it. Notice these three aspects of worldly wisdom.
  - b. First, it comes from hell (vs. 15).
    - i. James is pretty blunt! Worldly wisdom is devilish! It is of the Devil.
    - ii. Yes, it is described as earthly, but James points out it goes deeper than the earth.
    - iii. The world's wisdom is the complete antithesis of anything that is from God.
    - iv. It is also important for us to remember that thought it is demonic and powerful – it is subtle! Remember Genesis 3?
    - v. Satan tempted Eve to trust in his wisdom instead of God's, and he is doing the same thing today.
    - vi. Discuss: How are we tempted to trust the world's wisdom today?
  - c. Second, the world's wisdom is motivated by self-centered ambition.
    - i. James uses the word "sensual" to describe this wisdom. The word means to be subject to one's appetite or passion.
    - ii. Worldly wisdom measures everything by how it affects you. It is concerned on how you can advance yourself, promote yourself, or assert yourself.
    - iii. When you stop to think about it, this is the cause for most of our interpersonal problems. We enter relationships with the question, "What can I get out of this?" We are driven by our selfish desires and passions.
    - iv. This is not the way of the Lord and should not describe a Christian.
  - d. Thirdly, worldly wisdom results in disorder and evil (vs. 16)
    - i. In a home marked by worldly wisdom, you will have problems.
    - ii. In a church marked by worldly wisdom, you will have division.

- iii. Worldly wisdom produces anger, bitterness, resentment, etc. and robs us of love, trust and fellowship.
  - e. In verse 14, James gives us a hint of how we can know which kind of wisdom we are following: are we bitter or envious of others; are we angry?
- 2. Godly Wisdom (vs. 17-18)
  - a. What we need is Godly wisdom! What is that like? James gives us three points that contrast with what he has already said about worldly wisdom:
  - b. First, Godly wisdom comes from Heaven. Verse 17 says it "is from above."
    - i. Remember James 1:5-6? These verses remind us that wisdom comes from God Himself.
    - ii. We don't get wisdom from intellectual effort or practical experience as much as you get it from being with God.
    - iii. Heavenly wisdom sees things from God's perspective.
    - iv. When is the last time you asked God for wisdom? We should go to Him daily asking for wisdom like we read in Proverbs 2:1-8.
  - c. Second, Godly wisdom is motivated by God-centered humility (vs. 17-18).
    - i. In the original language, James groups these words by the way they sound. The result is a beautiful literary style that paints a beautiful picture of the blessing of the wisdom that comes from God.
    - ii. Notice how these qualities listed by James coincide with the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12.
    - iii. Wisdom from God produces humility in man. It is God-centered.
  - d. Thirdly, Godly wisdom results in peace and righteousness (vs. 18).
    - i. God's wisdom produces that which is right, that which is pleasing to God, and that which is good for the people of God.
    - ii. What are the results of your wisdom? What is your wisdom producing in your life, your relationships, etc.?

APPLICATION: *There is a lot of room for application in this lesson.*

- ⇒ The question is this: How do we obtain Godly wisdom? There are three primary ways for us to consider:
- ⇒ First, we find it in His Word. The Word of God is the Wisdom of God.
  - We have to spend time reading the Word, studying it, memorizing it, etc.
  - As we spend more time in God's Word, we begin to think more biblically.
- ⇒ Second, we find it in God Himself. Back to James 1. If we lack wisdom, we are to pray and ask God for it.
  - Make this a daily prayer request. Make this a request before important events during the day.
- ⇒ Third, feel your need for God's wisdom as you walk through life.
  - After you spend time in His Word and after you have requested wisdom in prayer, walk in confidence that God will be true to His promise.
  - As you go through life, keep in the front of your mind, "What would God say about this? What would He have me to do?"
  - Then simply walk in an obedient faith.