

James 3:13-18
Wisdom Works

Re-Read:

Re-read James 3:1-18 again and notice how the entire chapter is focused on the power of the tongue. Some have divided this chapter into three sections: the teacher (v. 1), the tongue (vv. 2-13), and the two types of wisdom (vv. 13-18). Do you consider yourself a “wise” person? Who is one of the wisest people you have ever met?

Review:

Outline from Sunday’s Sermon

- I. Wisdom...is shown (v. 13)
- II. Wisdom...can be soured (v. 14)
- III. Wisdom...is spiritual (v. 15)
- IV. Wisdom...will be sowed (vv. 16-18)

Respond:

- 1) Where do people go today looking for wisdom? How does our culture define wisdom? See Proverbs 1:7 and how Solomon defines wisdom.
- 2) Take some time to read the story about Solomon’s desire for wisdom over riches and power. How can you pray the same prayer in your life right now? Where do you need wisdom right now?
- 3) While the ancient world did not value “meekness of wisdom,” the Bible does. See Psalm 37:11; Matt 5:5; 11:29; 21:5; 1 Pet 3:4. How do you define “meek”?
- 4) How does sin in your life find its source in selfishness? Where do you sense the Holy Spirit telling you that you demonstrate selfishness right now?
- 5) Pastor John referenced Mark 10:35-45 and 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 as other ways to view spiritual wisdom. How did Jesus show “wisdom from above”? Does natural man understand this type of wisdom? See 1 Corinthians 2:14-16.
- 6) The final point James makes is that wisdom will be sowed in our lives and there will be a harvest of some sort — either of righteous fruit or unrighteous fruit. Take some time to pray through the character qualities listed in vv. 17-18 over your life. Does your life produce these fruits?
- 7) How does the fruit listed here resemble what Paul says in Galatians 5:19-23? Does your life have the fruit of the Spirit?

Reflect:

Pastor John concluded his message with four points of application from James 3:13-18. Take time to pray that “wisdom from above” will be demonstrated in your life through all four of these points:

- Wisdom at our workplace.
- Wisdom at our church.
- Wisdom at home.
- Wisdom in retirement.