



LESSON 9 - JAMES 3:13-18 (STUDENT)

1. What changes did you make as a result of applying last week's lesson?
2. Read James 3:13-18. Summarize this section with one sentence.
3. James is not only distinguishing characteristics for teachers among the scattered brethren but also every true believer. What are they?
4. Look up and define the word "wisdom" (sophos) and "understanding" (epistemon). When a person possesses these characteristics, how does he or she respond to the issues of life?
5. The Lord is not merely concerned with what people say. What is He also concerned with according to verse 13 (Proverbs 1:3; 4:7-12; 20:11)?

6. It is not simply enough to do something good for someone else. What must the possession of wisdom and understanding be proved by, according to verse 13?

7. In what manner is one's life (behavior, walk, actions) to be shown? This is a similar idea to 1:21, 4:6 and 4:10. What is it?

8. Think about your average day. Make a list of good deeds you are performing in your home. Which areas are lacking the "gentleness of wisdom" and humility?

Take this time to confess the areas in which you are lacking humility and upon whom your lack of gentleness usually manifests itself.

9. According to verse 14, what is the unfortunate result when a different kind of wisdom is ruling the day? In such a situation, how are people responding from the heart?

10. Look up 1 Corinthians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 12:20; and Galatians 5:20. How might this help you to understand the attitude James has in mind?

11. Can you think of a time when jealousy or selfish ambition ruled your day? What was your manner of life (behavior, walk, and actions) that day? How did it impact your interpersonal relationships at home and at church?

12. When we Christians harbor bitterness and selfish ambition in our hearts, and then boast about it, what are we essentially doing? Why is this an oxymoron?

We are _____.

13. What is the disastrous result if our homes and our churches are filled with jealousy and selfish ambition toward one another according to verse 16?

14. James wants to distinguish two kinds of wisdom and the fruit they produce in a church's body life and home life. Fill in the two types of wisdom stated in vs. 15 and 17.

Wisdom from Below	Wisdom from Above

15. In the concluding statement in verse 18, the literal translation is "And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." James' position is important: one's manner of life ought to consist of regularly sowing the seed of peace. In light of that truth, what are the practical implications in our homes and in our churches when we strive to sow peace everywhere we go? What does this teach concerning your Christian growth and maturity? (For additional help, see James in action as a peacemaker and what).

APPLICATION:

16. The home is the easiest target for hypocrisy in our lives. As you survey the lists above, would your husband, children, or roommate say that you are the same person inside your home as you are outside? What would they say needs to be more consistent? (If you are brave enough, ask someone you live with!)
17. In which of the eight aspects of godly wisdom do you need to grow most? Write a few sentences which will help you think rightly about how to access this wisdom. Use the example below to help you.

Godly wisdom makes peace with people, but I tend to alienate others. Jesus was a peacemaker by reconciling the world to Himself. As far as it depends on me, He wants me to be at peace with all people unless it compromises truth. The wisdom from above should promote peace and unity. I have not been seeking peace with _____ (name of someone in your life) nor have I been seeking the wisdom to reconcile with him/her.

Because of this lesson I will:

13.

- Copy the "Wisdom from Above" list (last page) in the chart below (1st column).
- Read the definition given (2nd column).
- Look up the Bible reference, and write down how Jesus was the example of godly wisdom during his short life (3rd column).
- In the last column (4th), write the reference and explanation of how the believers that James wrote to were not displaying these characteristics.

Wisdom from Above	Definition	How did Jesus display this wisdom?	Give examples from James w/verse where believers were exhibiting worldly wisdom, <u>NOT</u> godly wisdom
1.	<i>Hagnos</i> : free from contamination	1 John 3:3-5 Jesus has no sin.	James 1:27; 2:4
2.	Does not allow divisions, but never keeps peace at the expense of purity	2 Corinthians 5:19	
3.	Literally <i>Considerate</i> : having respect for the feelings of others	Luke 7:12-15	

4.	<i>Epeithes</i> : literally submissive, open to reason; willing to listen	Matthew 20:29-34	
5.	Attitude of compassion towards those in distress, leading to action	Matthew 9:35-36	
6.	Action that matches one's faith	John 17:4-6	
7.	Without division or discord	Matthew 4:1-11 Even in the most difficult position Jesus did not waver from His mission.	
8.	Sincere (not being 2-faced)	Matthew 26:52-54	

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