

TODAY'S VERSES:

James 3:17-18

Proverbs 9:10

Proverbs 11:2

1 Corinthians 1:30

Colossians 3:16-17

James 1:5

James 3:13-18

Matthew 11:29

Galatians 5:22-23

1 John 3:3

Ephesians 2:14

Ephesians 4:3

Romans 14:19

Romans 12:18

1 Samuel 25:32-33

2 Corinthians 1:12

THIS WEEK, I CAN APPLY THIS LESSON
TO MY LIFE IN THESE WAYS:

MY NOTES:

JAMES

A FAITH THAT WORKS

PART TWELVE: JAMES 3:13-18
WORKS AND WISDOM

JAMES

A FAITH THAT WORKS

PART TWELVE: JAMES 3:13-18

WORKS AND WISDOM

Any time we have a misplaced identity (where we find our worth from people or things) we will lash out if we perceive those things as being threatened. What we need to see is that our worth comes from Jesus and that worth can never be taken from us because we are His. Jesus doesn't just love some future version of us, He actually loves us here and now. Understanding these truths gives us the ability to live out our faith in the world in ways that reflect the goodness of God and not the fear so many others live in.

James will take all of the ideas he has spoken about so far and move us to living out the wisdom that God has brought. You will see 2 different types of wisdom come to light: Wisdom from above and wisdom from below.

Kent Hughes says that wisdom comes to us in 4 specific ways:

- **Reverence.** *Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.* When we see God for who He is—holy, loving, and sovereign—a deep respect for Him brings us to the doorway of wisdom. When we truly see God we become humble and receptive to God's wisdom.
- **Conversion.** We become those who are (as the Apostle Paul says 161 times) "in Christ," who belong to Jesus. It indicates relationship with God through Christ that comes with conversion and salvation. A true relationship with Christ brings God's wisdom to us and opens us to further wisdom.
- **Scripture.** The Scriptures constantly repeat that wisdom comes from God's Word. If we want to live in wisdom we should spend time reading and thinking about God's Word.
- **Prayer.** James starts his letter by telling us *James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."*

God will always keep His word, the question becomes, "will we live in it?" The true root of wisdom is, as we have seen, a profound understanding of the greatness of God and our own smallness which will bring about humility. No one can be considered wise who is not at the same time humble

Read James 3:13-18.

- What's the most foolish thing you've ever done (or second most if number one is too embarrassing)?
- Do you consider yourself a wise person?
- What/who do you look to for wisdom in your life?
- How is the wisdom from above different than the wisdom from below?
- In what ways does wisdom from above bring gentleness?
- In what ways does wisdom from above bring an openness to reason?
- In what ways does wisdom from above bring a fullness of mercy?
- In what ways does wisdom from above bring impartiality?
- How have you experienced 'wisdom from below?' Has it ever hurt you?
- Do you believe that God will always keep His word?
- What might God be calling you to grow in?
- In what ways do you want wisdom to be the train map of all of God's decisions?
- How can we gain wisdom through reverence?
- How can we gain wisdom through conversion?
- How can we gain wisdom through scripture?
- How can we gain wisdom through prayer?