



James

The Epistle of Straw?



Recap

- ▶ Last week, we discussed James' warnings regarding the tongue.
- ▶ “How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!”



Who does your tongue obey?



Wisdom

Our topic today



Not many of you should become teachers

James 3:1-2

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways...



So who should become a teacher?

James 3:1-2, 13-18

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways...

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you?



How do you evaluate a teacher?

James 3:1-2, 13-18

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways...

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



The Meekness of Wisdom

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.



What's this a reference to?

Boasting will be the focus of 4:13-17
"All such boasting is evil."



Remember “Do not be deceived”?

James 1:16

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.





Well, “Do not be deceived...”

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...



What's *this* a reference to?



Remember “Every good gift”?

James 1:16–18

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.



Earthly, Unspiritual, Demonic

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.



Summary (so far)

James 3:13-16

- Wisdom should be shown—through meek, wise actions.
- That kind of wisdom does not look like “bitter jealousy” or “selfish ambition.”
- In fact, if you do see bitter jealousy or selfish ambition, then you can know that those things are not coming from God at all. They are earthly, unspiritual... even demonic.
- What’s more, “where jealousy or ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.”



And all of it comes from God.

James 3:13-18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.



¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights..." (*James 1*)



There's an order to these things.

James 3:13-18

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.



There's an order to these things.

James 3:13-18

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



For a while now, James has been preparing us for *James 4:7-10*

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep.


Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.



Discussion Questions & Additional Scriptures for Study

For journaling, calling a friend, discussing with family, and prayer



Do you consider yourself wise?
Do you act like you are wise?

Discussion Questions



Why are ambition or jealousy bad, according to James?

Discussion Questions



Where do you turn for wisdom?
Where does James suggest we look for
wisdom?

Discussion Questions



Wisdom comes from... Above

James 1:16-18

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.



Wisdom starts with... Repentance

James 3:16-18

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.



Am I pursuing wisdom? Should I?

Discussion Question



Get Wisdom At All Costs!

Proverbs 4:5–9

⁵ Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. ⁷ The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. ⁸ Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. ⁹ She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown.”



Desires

Next Week...



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