Women of Grace

Lesson 6 | James 3:13-18

“In 3:13–18 James offers wisdom as still another test of living faith. The kind of wisdom a person possesses will be revealed by the kind of life he lives (v. 13). Those who possess the wisdom of man, the wisdom from below, will demonstrate by their lives that they have no saving relationship to Jesus Christ and no desire to worship, serve, or obey Him (vv. 14–16). Those, on the other hand, who possess genuine saving faith will manifest the wisdom of God, the wisdom from above (vv. 17–18).” – John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, James, p. 168

# MEMORIZATION VERSE

**James 1:7-8**

For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,   
being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

# DAY 1 | The Meekness of Wisdom | Read James 3:13-18

1. What affected you the most from last week’s lesson or lecture? How is God using what you learned to sanctify you?

Type your answer here

1. In James 3:13, what test of genuine saving faith did James pose? How can we recognize this in ourselves and others?

Type your answer here

* 1. How do you fare if you apply this test to your own life?

Type your answer here

1. Use a dictionary or other Bible resource to define “gentleness” (NASB) or “meekness” (ESV), as used in verse 13.

Type your answer here

* 1. What do you think is the relationship between gentleness/meekness and wisdom?

Type your answer here

* 1. How does Matthew 11:29 deepen your understanding of the importance of gentleness/meekness?

Type your answer here

1. From the following verses, identify some ways that gentleness/meekness can be evident in the life of the believer.
   1. Galatians 6:1–2

Type your answer here

* 1. James 1:19–21

Type your answer here

* 1. 1 Peter 3:15

Type your answer here

# Day 2 | Wisdom’s Worldly Counterfeit, Part 1 | Read James 3:13-18

1. In James 3:14–16, how does James describe the worldly counterfeit of true wisdom?

Type your answer here

* 1. According to verses 14 and 16, what are the root motivations of worldly wisdom?

Type your answer here

1. In what ways does the world today approve, honor, or reward jealousy or ambition? Are there ways you knowingly or unknowingly affirm those characteristics in those with whom you interact and influence?

Type your answer here

* 1. Why do you think this thinking and behavior are considered acceptable by the world?

Type your answer here

* 1. In your own life, would you say that your counselors are worldly or godly? What steps can you take to make sure the counsel you receive is heavenly wisdom as opposed to worldly wisdom?

Type your answer here

1. What kind of counselor have you been in the relationships in which you have influence? How can you grow so that you’re better equipped to provide wise and understanding counsel to others?

Type your answer here

# Day 3 | Wisdom’s Worldly Counterfeit, Part 2 | Read James 2:13-18

1. According to verse 16, what is always found where jealousy and selfish ambition exist?

Type your answer here

* 1. What do you think is the root of jealousy and selfish ambition? Explain your answer.

Type your answer here

* 1. Why are jealousy and selfish-ambition incompatible with wisdom from above?

Type your answer here

1. How are your own thoughts, opinions, and choices influenced by the world’s wisdom?

Type your answer here

* 1. What can you do to lessen the influence of worldly wisdom and grow in biblical wisdom in your own life?

Type your answer here

1. Since Scripture teaches that conflict and strife are a result of human wisdom, consider whether there are relationships or circumstances in your own life that are marked by conflict and strife. Are there ways where you have been interacting with others with ambition or jealousy? What can you do to make those relationships right?

Type your answer here

# Day 4 | Heavenly Wisdom, Part 1 | Read James 3:13-18

1. From Romans 11:33–36, 1 Corinthians 1:25–31, and Colossians 2:2–3, what is taught about the nature of the heavenly wisdom described in James 3:17?

Type your answer here

1. Using a dictionary, Bible commentary, or other resource, define and describe the following characteristics of true wisdom from verse 17.
   1. Pure

Type your answer here

* 1. Peaceable

Type your answer here

* 1. Gentle

Type your answer here

* 1. Reasonable

Type your answer here

* 1. Full of mercy and good fruits

Type your answer here

* 1. Unwavering

Type your answer here

* 1. Without hypocrisy

Type your answer here

1. Do you personally see this heavenly wisdom as valuable? What can you do practically to value it even more?

Type your answer here

# Day 5 | Heavenly Wisdom, Part 2 | Read James 3:13-18

1. According to 1 Corinthians 2:6–16, can heavenly wisdom be acquired apart from regeneration? Explain your answer.

Type your answer here

* 1. How does Paul’s encouragement to the Corinthian church relate to James’ question in 3:13 and to the theme of the whole book as a series of tests of genuine faith?

Type your answer here

1. In verse 18, what marks a life ruled by heavenly wisdom?

Type your answer here

1. According to Jesus in Matthew 5:9, what is the result for those who make peace?

Type your answer here

* 1. What steps can you take this week to make peace?

Type your answer here

* 1. How does Galatians 5:22–23 help you understand James’ exhortation in verses 17–18?

Type your answer here

1. Remembering James’ exhortation in 1:5 to ask God for wisdom, write a brief prayer asking God to show you where you need to grow, and to grant you the godly wisdom that manifests itself in righteousness.

Type your answer here

**James 3:13–18**

I. The Truly Wise (v. 13)

II. The Truly Unwise (vv. 14–16)

III. The Truly Blessed (vv. 17–18)

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