

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?
2. In James 3:13, what test of genuine saving faith did James pose? How can we recognize this in ourselves and others?
 - a. How do you fare if you apply this test to your own life?
3. Use a dictionary or other Bible resource to define “gentleness” (NASB) or “meekness” (ESV), as used in verse 13.

- a. What do you think is the relationship between gentleness/meekness and wisdom?

 - b. How does Matthew 11:29 deepen your understanding of the importance of gentleness/meekness?
4. From the following verses, identify some ways that gentleness/meekness can be evident in the life of the believer.
- a. Galatians 6:1–2

 - b. James 1:19–21

 - c. 1 Peter 3:15

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

2. 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?
 - a. Why do you think this thinking and behavior are considered acceptable by the world?
 - b. 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?
3. 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?

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?
 - a. What do you think is the root of jealousy and selfish ambition? Explain your answer.
 - b. Why are jealousy and selfish-ambition incompatible with wisdom from above?

2. How are your own thoughts, opinions, and choices influenced by the world's wisdom?
 - a. What can you do to lessen the influence of worldly wisdom and grow in biblical wisdom in your own life?

3. 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?

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?

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

 - b. Peaceable

 - c. Gentle

- d. Reasonable

- e. Full of mercy and good fruits

- f. Unwavering

- g. Without hypocrisy

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

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.
 - a. 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?

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

3. According to Jesus in Matthew 5:9, what is the result for those who make peace?
 - a. What steps can you take this week to make peace?

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

4. 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.

James 3:13–18

I. The Truly Wise (v. 13)

II. The Truly Unwise (vv. 14–16)

III. The Truly Blessed (vv. 17–18)