

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

## “*The Wisdom from Above*”

Scripture Reading: JAMES 3:13-18

- ) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
- ) **SLIDES 7-8**. Read today’s Scripture text.
- ) **SLIDE 9**. Today we continue in our expository study in the Book of JAMES. This is week #19. I have titled today’s message “*The Wisdom from Above*” (3:17).
- ) This is the second time in this Book of JAMES that James speaks about wisdom. He spoke about wisdom back in 1:5-8. It is obvious that James knew that having a proper view of wisdom will be proof of walking the Christian walk.
- ) **SLIDE 10**. I preached on wisdom and verses 1:5-8 back on 1/23/2022. In that message I gave these two definitions of wisdom. Definition #1 which is a secular definition. Hopefully we make wise choices today based on our past experiences.
- ) **SLIDE 11**. I also gave this definition which we used as the correct definition of wisdom as used by James. Definition #2 which is the Webster 1828 definition.
- ) **SLIDE 12**. Then I added this adjective to properly categorize the type of wisdom James is speaking about.
- ) **SLIDE 13**. In that study on 1:5-8, we made these four points about Biblical wisdom.
- ) **SLIDE 14**. We concluded that lesson from 1:5-8 that when asked for correctly and with the right motives, God will give wisdom to that person generously. Personally, for me, it’s not that I pray for wisdom as a blanket prayer for all times like Solomon did. I pray for it on an as-needed basis. I’m entering a situation that requires wisdom and a godly direction.

- ) And it works. Lord, what should I say? And the result is sometimes I say nothing. A stilled tongue can certainly be a demonstration of godly wisdom.
- ) And now we have James coming back again to this topic of wisdom here in chapter 3:13-18. In today's text, he defines the wisdom the Christian must have by segregating the wisdom we should and should not have.
- ) **SLIDE 15**. Here are the sides. And it's not that all secular wisdom is earthly, natural, and demonic. Secular wisdom (experience) has taught us many good things like who to associate and not associate with in friendships. Secular wisdom has taught us what restaurants serve better food and better service than others. And these are good things.
- ) So, James helps us out by defining some attributes of wisdom that are ungodly with attributes of wisdom that are from above.
- ) **SLIDE 16**. First the attributes that define ungodly wisdom.  
JAMES 3:14-16.
- ) **SLIDE 17**. Let's list those attributes.
- ) **SLIDE 18**. We must admit that we gain a lot of knowledge by our everyday experiences. Can these experiences lead us to ungodly practices? Absolutely!
- ) And I can't help connecting the dots that this ungodly wisdom all circles back to what James says about being teachers of the Word of God (3:1) and taming our tongues (3:2-12).
- ) **SLIDE 19**. We must remember that the Christian still retains the human condition. And the human condition likes being jealous, and it likes having selfish ambition, and it likes being arrogant. And it likes lying against the truth. And it likes disorder. And James just throws a blanket statement on the human condition and its say it likes every evil thing.
- ) Allow me to give a quick example of each of these.

- ) Worldly experience has taught me that sometimes it is wise (in an ungodly sense) to be jealous when appropriate. Because I want what that person has. And now experience has taught me what to do and say to get it.
- ) Worldly experience has taught me that sometimes it is wise (in an ungodly sense) to have selfish ambition to get ahead. I want that position of power. And now experience has taught me what to do and say to get it.
- ) Worldly experience has taught me that sometimes it is wise (in an ungodly sense) to be arrogant. Because when I am, people listen and do what I say. And now experience has taught me what to do and say to get my way.
- ) Worldly experience has taught me that sometimes it is wise (in an ungodly sense) to tell lies to achieve my goals. I'll never get that teaching position if they know the truth. But now experience has taught me what to do and say to get it.
- ) Worldly experience has taught me that if I can do these ungodly things, then I can bring disorder into the situation. Because with disorder I can disguise my true evil motives. And now experience has taught me what to do and say to get me in.
- ) So, we can see from these simple examples that worldly experience can also prepare us for doing ungodly things to achieve ungodly goals.
- ) **SLIDE 20**. Now let's look at the attributes that define the wisdom from above. JAMES 3:17.
- ) **SLIDE 21**. Let's list those attributes.
- ) Let's quickly define each of these words by giving a Scripture reference for each.
- ) **SLIDE 22**. Pure. MATTHEW 5:8.
- ) **SLIDE 23**. Peaceable. MATTHEW 5:9.

- ) **SLIDE 24.** Gentle. MATTHEW 5:5.
- ) **SLIDE 25.** Reasonable. Obey God's laws. JOHN 14:15.
- ) **SLIDE 26.** Full of mercy. MATTHEW 5:7.
- ) **SLIDE 27.** Good fruits. JOHN 15:5.
- ) **SLIDE 28.** Unwavering. MATTHEW 7:24b-25.
- ) **SLIDE 29.** Without hypocrisy. 1 TIMOTHY 4:1-2.
- ) **SLIDE 30.** Back on 1/9/2022, in week #2 of this study of the Book of JAMES, I said this would be the theme throughout this book. How do you handle trials? How do you handle anger? How do you handle religion? How do you show favoritism? How sincere is your faith? Are you sure you want to be a teacher of the Word of God? Are you able to tame the tongue?
- ) **SLIDE 31.** James begins this section on wisdom in v13 by saying this. JAMES 3:13. Are your actions a reflection of godly wisdom—the wisdom from above?
- ) Last week we talked about an evil agenda that wants to permeate the church. The Christian has an agenda too. And that agenda is to share the gospel.
- ) **SLIDE 32.** And there is a way that we go about doing that. JAMES 3:18. In peace and in a peaceful way. We can be passionate about our Christianity (and we should be) but we don't demonstrate that passion by storming the Capital Building, or burning down stores, or rioting and looting, or protesting in front of the homes of Supreme Court justices.
- ) **SLIDE 33.** There is a proper way to express our views in the public eye. And it always must be in a peaceful way. Why? Because PROVERBS 17:27 tells us this. Kinda sounds like what James is telling us here in chapter 3. Or maybe he just learned these things from his older brother.

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