

Title: Spiritual Wisdom

Text: James 3:13-18

Take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to James chapter 3. The book of James chapter 3 beginning with Vs 13.

We are looking at the (2A) Characteristics of Faith and Works. And we have seen that Faith produces the following works. (1B) First, Faith removes discrimination. (2B) Secondly, Faith will always prove itself by works. (3B) Third, Faith controls the tongue. And now, 4B on your outline.. FAITH PRODUCES SPIRITUAL WISDOM. We need wisdom. You need wisdom. I need wisdom. We need it in our homes. We need it as we plan for the future. We need wisdom to understand who we are and to understand who others are. WE NEED SPIRITUAL WISDOM There might be a decision on your heart that you need to make. And you say, "Boy, do I need some wisdom. I need to know what God wants me to do."

There might be a problem in your life. And you cannot share this problem with anyone. And you say, "I need wisdom. I need to know what to do."

*Jok → Behold I can*  
In James chapter 1, we studied a text that serves as a guide line for what is being said in chapter 3. James 1:5 says "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

This verse is saying that if we ask God...God wants to give us wisdom more than we want to receive it. And He will keep giving it. But, there is one condition...Vs 6 of chapter 1 says.."But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."

We need wisdom. But, we must ask in faith without doubting. And the truth is that God wants to give more than we want to receive. And let me tell you, that is exciting. *Behold I can*

Now, this brings us to chapter 3 verse 13...(READ Vs 13-18)

#### PRAYER

I would like to share with you three principles from this passage concerning SPIRITUAL WISDOM AND HOW IT OPERATES.

(1) Number one, in Vs 13, we see SPIRITUAL WISDOM in our ACTIONS before others.

Vs 13 ask a question: WHO AMONG YOU IS WISE AND UNDERSTANDING?

Then, the question is answered. "Let him show by his good behaviour his deeds (or works) in the gentleness of wisdom."

(1) So, the key to being wise in our deeds or works or conduct <sup>Before</sup> others is the attitude of GENTLENESS.

NOW, WHAT IS GENTLENESS? *Be Gentle is not weakness.*

(1) First of all, according to Galatians 5:22-23, gentleness is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness." The fruit of the Spirit is gentleness.

What does that teach <sup>me</sup> you? That teaches me that the characteristic of gentleness does not arise from normal human nature. In other words, you can not go out of this service, today, and say, "I AM GOING TO BE GENTLE." You can not do that. Because GENTLENESS is coming from the Holy Spirit.

We make the mistake of equating "gentleness" with some one who has a "calm" nature or some one with a quite nature. And we say that he is a gentle person. But, that is not true. Gentleness is a product of the Holy Spirit.

(2) Now, secondly, as to the meaning of Gentleness, turn to Matthew chapter 11. Matthew chapter 11 and notice Vs 28 and 29.. This is a key passage concerning the meaning of "gentleness:.. Matt. 11: verse 28, Jesus says, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you shall find rest for your souls."

So, according to Jesus, if you will come to Him and learn from Him and take His yoke, you will learn that He is gentle and humble; and when you learn that, Jesus says, you will find rest.

You know, it is wonderful to be at peace. As I look over this congregation I realize that we all have our own problems. There are things that we are facing And it is a wonderful thing to have peace on the inside. To be at rest with ourselves and the world about us. To know that quite confidence of the heart that no matter how difficult the outward circumstance may seem,

*SOFTLY*

th ~~outward circumstances~~, we have the presence of God and he gives us His peace.

So, WHO IS THE WISE PERSON? The person who shows out-off the manner of his life...gentleness.....And gentleness produces ~~that~~ inward peace ~~that~~

*is the Fruit of the HS that when we take the yoke of Jesus and learn from Him gives a person rest.....*

(20) Obviously, from the usage of ~~verse~~ verse 29 of Matthew 11, GENTLENESS has something to do with being humble in heart. *Jesus* says: "I AM GENTLE AND HUMBLE IN HEART."

Someone has discribed gentleness as being "strength under control." That is ture. *Because* Gentleness involves humility. Gentleness is totally opposite to the person who is emphasizing ~~it~~ so much in our world, today. The person who is striving to get ahead, *The person who seeks power* and he will step on anybodies toes to do so. He is a status seeker and he doesn't care who he hurts on his way to get what he wants. And the world teaches that a person who is gentle is not going to get ahead in life *which is a false concept*

But, Jesus said: "if you learn of me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, you will find rest." If there is one thing that characterizes the world today, it is RESTLESS...People go..go..go. There is no rest. There is no peace. We are too business. There are to many things going on.. *To much in a hurry* Thus, we don't have peace, We don't have rest.

Jesus said "COME." You know, in order to have spiritual wisdom and to show forth out of your life ~~GENTLENESS~~ *HUMILITY*, you must first of all COME to Christ. You can try to be ~~gentle~~ *Humble* in your own effort, but it will not work. You can be like the person who said: "I WILL BE HUMBLE." And he wrote a book entitled: "HOW I LEARNED TO BE HUMBLE." And he used 50 illustrations about himself.....

You cannot do it, my friends. It is impossible. We can not be gentle and humble in heart. SO WHERE DO WE GO? Jesus said: COME UNTO ME." AND TAKE MY YOKE .....that is simplly saying ..line up your life bside me.... Jesus is saying, come to me and submit to my control and leadership and I will give you the ~~peace~~ *rest* you want.

Why Can't We Do That? Because of our sin

There are so many who cannot do that. There is a struggle and a fight that goes on. BUT WHO IS WISE? Who is the <sup>The person who lines up by Jesus</sup> man that has spiritual wisdom? He is the <sup>person</sup> man who can show out-off his <sup>life</sup> GENTLENESS. And <sup>and Humbleness</sup> gentleness is a product of the Holy Spirit. And Jesus said: "I am gentle and humble in heart. Take my yoke and learn of me." <sup>-LINE UP along side of me</sup>

The Problem is

Most of us haven't got time to learn from Jesus. And what Jesus is talking about here is PRACTICING HIS PRESENCE. Establishing the kind of relationship whereby we know and live with Him day after day after day. That we begin to feel the beat of His heart; and it becomes ours." "Learn of me, Jesus said." Learn by experience day after day. And you cannot do that unless you COME and take his yoke. But, the tremendous result will be PEACE. <sup>and Wisdom</sup> Because you learn gentleness and humbleness of heart. You learn to seek first the kingdom of ~~MAN~~ God ..... <sup>It is Tremendous</sup>

an attitude

Now, let's come back to James chapter 3....Spiritual wisdom is seen by the way we live and act before others....Our works are demonstrated by gentleness..and humility

(2C) But there is a second way in which spiritual wisdom is seen. And that is in our attitude towards others. Notice Vs 14-16...(READ)

You see, the problem is JEALOUSY AND SELFISH AMBITION ~~and strife~~. James says that if your have bitter jealousy and <sup>selfish Ambition</sup> ~~strife~~ in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth."

selfish Ambition

Now, what is he talking about?....First of all, we should know what <sup>selfish Ambition</sup> ~~strife~~ is. ~~STRIFE~~ is the desire to put ones self forward. It is interesting to note that this word <sup>SELFISH Ambition</sup> "~~strife~~" in the Roman political sense was used of one who had "BAD POLITICE. It was used of someone who desired an office and would use any means he could to get that office. And James says to christian: that if you have <sup>SELFISH Ambition</sup> ~~strife~~ in your hearts, be careful, because where <sup>SELFISH Ambition</sup> ~~strife~~ is there is disorder and confussion and every evil thing. <sup>SELFISH Ambition</sup> ~~STRIFE~~ PRODUCES DISORDER.... <sup>in your own life - your families - and church</sup>

PART - jerry TSCB

Now, notice the word "jealousy." You all know what jealousy can do to a person. A person who is filled with "jealousy" is filled with self. James says that where ever you find that spirit there is confussion and disorder.

And notice, please, that it is in our hearts. It effects us personally and we cannot escape it.

Also, notice, that it is "bitter." The word "bitter" comes from the root word meaning "TO CUT." And when Jealousy and selfish ambition is in a life, and this causes a desire to get your own way regardless of who you might hurt, the Bible teaches us that it is cutting. It is like a knife that cuts to the bone. James says, "Do not be arrogant and lie against the truth." He points out the pride of jealousy and selfish ambition. Do not be arrogant. Because you are going against the truth. The truth that is found in the Word of God.

*also*  
*Now, let's* look at the place where jealousy and selfish ambition originates. *where Does it come from.*  
Vs 15 says, "The wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, *de-monic*." In other words, it is not from God. It doesn't come from above. It is earthly...it is of this earth. It is the common philosophy of this world. It is not from God. *World - Do onto others before they do it to you*

It is, also, "natural." This is the same word that we find in I Cor. 2:14.. "But the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them. Because they are spiritually discerned."

What is the point? The point is that the person who is not spiritually wise, the person who has jealousy and selfish ambition in his heart and uses other people for his own personal gain..this kind of person the Bible says is using the wisdom that is of this earth. It is of the natural sinful man. It is the kind of wisdom the person apart from God uses. *The Unbeliever*  
~~And James~~

And James, also, says in Vs 15, that this kind of wisdom is DEMONIC. It comes from the devil, himself.

What a warning against our using the wisdom of this world. And yet, so often we have a decision, or a problem, or a burden facing us, and how do we deal with it? How do we get wisdom? <sup>well,</sup> And we go to everyone under the sun and we seek the opinions of man and the philosophies of this world without going to God. Jesus said: "Come unto me and learn of me, and you shall find rest for your soul."

(5) And what is the result of seeking the wisdom of the world and of the natural man..the unbeliever? Vs 16....tells us it is DISORDER...CONFUSION IN EVERY THING. And evil is produced in our lives. In problem solving we must "SEEK FIRST GOD'S TRUTH." If we seek the wisdom of the natural man the results in our lives will be confusion and disorder.

So, spiritual wisdom is seen in our attitudes towards others.

(30) There is a third way <sup>to see in what we can see</sup> ~~to~~ SPIRITUAL WISDOM ~~that James presents in this passage.~~ <sup>James</sup> says that spiritual wisdom is seen in our association with other

There is a long list of things here. And each one is important.

(11) Vs 17: "But the wisdom from above is first pure. In God's wisdom there is no false motives...no secret desire....no desire to cut and hurt your neighbor with your tongue because God's wisdom is pure.

Spiritual wisdom is first of all PURE. But, it is, also, in our relationship with others <sup>(2)</sup>..PEACEABLE....<sup>(3)</sup>GENTLE....<sup>(4)</sup>AND REASONABLE. It has <sup>5</sup>MERCY and <sup>6</sup>BEARS GOOD FRUITS. There is no hypocrisy found in spiritual wisdom from God.

Are you a peaceable person, or do you cause trouble? Are you gentle and kind to others? Are you reasonable or do you always want your own way?

Spiritual wisdom will be seen in our association with others in mercy. We will be concerned with or about the feelings of others. "Full of mercy and good fruit." Jesus said that those who show mercy will receive mercy from God.

So, What about our association with others? Do we treat others with hypocrisy? <sup>(1) Now</sup> ~~And then~~ notice Vs 18...."And the fruit of righteousness, that is God's work in us, is sown in peace by those who make peace....

What is James talking about? He is talking about spiritual wisdom. How to be wise. <sup>So</sup> ~~And~~ <sup>Wisdom</sup> is seen in our action before others. In our attitude towards others; and in our association with others.

Now, I want to say something about that little phrase in Vs ~~18~~ <sup>15</sup> and 17 "FROM ABOVE"....You read this many times in the N.T. The point is that when a person is born again or ~~he~~ <sup>That Person</sup> receives the Lord Jesus Christ as his savior..it is from above. It is spiritual and not physical or earthly. Every person who ~~truly~~ comes to Christ, the Bible says is born "from above." He has a spiritual birth. This results in a spiritual relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Thus, he can talk ~~freely and~~ <sup>freely</sup> ~~openly~~ with God. He can fellowship personally with God.

And James calls this "THE WISDOM FROM ABOVE." And my friends until you are born again "from above", you cannot know the wisdom "from above". You cannot have the wisdom that God is talking about in ~~Vs 17-18~~ <sup>These Verses</sup>, until you receive Jesus Christ as your saviour and you are born again "from above".

You ask: "HOW DO I DO THAT?" How Can I make it happen? My friend, you do not make the spiritual birth happen. The Holy Spirit of God causes it to happen in your life. Your part is to believe...to trust the Lord Jesus Christ. Your part is to put your faith and trust in the finished ~~work~~ work of Jesus on the cross...WHY?....Because it was only there at the cross that Jesus settled the sin question. At the cross I find forgiveness for my sins. And by asking God to forgive me and receiving Jesus Christ into my life, I am born again from above. [And then I am in a position to have

*The Wisdom of God operates in my life*

~~receive the wisdom of God~~. The wisdom that we so desperately need comes from above. You may desire the wisdom of God, but it will never come until you ask God to forgive you of your sins and receive by faith Jesus as your personal saviour and Lord. <sup>Then By Faith Without Doubt, ask God for His Son, and He will give it to you.</sup>

So Who is ~~a~~ <sup>the</sup> wise ~~man?~~ <sup>person</sup>? The person who has received Jesus as Savior. He then has the wisdom of God which will be seen in his action before others, seen in his attitude toward others; and seen in his association with others,

*May This be part of our vision and Victory in 1997*  
Shall we close in prayer