



Becoming a People Who... Live Their Faith

“Two Kinds of Wisdom”

James 3:13-18

Message Notes: April 28, 2019

These next 4-5 weeks, we will be in a new mini-series: *A People Who Live their Faith*. We will be walking through the book of James - - the author (believed to be James the brother of Jesus) is writing to Christians “scattered among the nations” to encourage them how to *practically* live out their faith.

Today we will examine James 3:13-18. James examines the necessity of **Godly wisdom** to live out our faith. While this discourse on wisdom shows up in *the middle* of this letter, it is a foundation for all the other themes that James is addressing.

Wisdom is more than knowledge. We live in an information age, where factual knowledge is literally at our fingertips. But wisdom goes well beyond knowledge; it is the practical, effective **application** of knowledge - - the ability to use information responsibly.

A tale of two wisdoms:

	<u>TRUE WISDOM</u>	<u>FALSE/EMPTY WISDOM</u>
Origin:	from above, from God	worldly, from below, demonic
Operation:	humble, peace-loving, considerate, merciful	bitter envy, selfish ambition
Outcome:	blessing, peace, righteousness	trouble, confusion, disorder, evil

It is easy to contrast these two “kinds” of wisdom, but the important question is: How do I evaluate MY OWN life in light of these scriptures. James’ analysis of these 2 wisdoms creates a *mirror* for us to look at ourselves. **What wisdom am I living from?**

- * [Is my life driven by envy & selfish ambition or is it well-seasoned with humility, peace, consideration?](#)
- * [Does my life bear the fruit of mercy, peace, and righteousness or is it fraught with disorder and strife?](#)

I imagine ALL of us see room for improvement as we gaze into this mirror of two wisdoms.

[What do we do? How do we change and grow?](#)

James 1:5 gives us a key insight!...“**Ask God**, who gives (wisdom) to all people generously...”

We have biblical testimony of this truth in the story of King Solomon, who asked God for one thing – that he would have a wise, discerning heart to govern his people well.” 1 Kings 3:7-9

And God granted his humble request! 1 Kings 3:10-13

The people experienced the fruit of this gift – 1 Kings 3:28

And others beheld it as well – 1 Kings 10:6-9 (the Queen of Sheba)

We have a different (yet similar) story in Zacchaeus – who was confronted (*up-close and personal*) by the mirror of the loving wisdom of Jesus, and he was transformed. With deep, sincere repentance of heart, Zacchaeus repaid 4-fold all he had cheated from others and gave generously to the poor. [Luke 19](#)

Will we, likewise, invite God into the challenging, confusing situations of our lives and **ASK HIM** for wisdom, listening humbly for His insight, thereby experiencing His guidance and freedom?

May we live in the wisdom of Solomon, given by God, and summarized well in [Proverbs 4:5-9](#).