

SERMON OUTLINE James 3:13-18

Not All Wisdom Is Wise

NOT ALL WISDOM IS WISE

UNWISE WISDOM

Source of Unwise Wisdom (15)

Characteristics of Unwise Wisdom (14-16)

1. *Bitter jealousy (14, 16)*
2. *Selfish ambition (14, 16)*
3. *Boasting (14)*
4. *False to the truth (14)*
5. *Disorder (16)*
6. *Every vile practice (16)*

WISE WISDOM

Source of Wise Wisdom (17)

Characteristics of Wise Wisdom (13, 17-18)

1. *Good conduct (13)*
2. *Meekness (13)*
3. *Purity (17)*
4. *Peaceable (17)*
5. *Gentle (17)*
6. *Open to reason (17)*
7. *Full of mercy (17)*
8. *Full of good fruits (17)*
9. *Impartial (17)*
10. *Sincere (17)*
11. *Harvest of righteousness (18)*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

Wise wisdom comes from God and produces good fruit, while unwise wisdom comes from below and produces bad fruit. The three main parts to help us see that are: (1) Not all wisdom is wise, (2) The source and characteristics of unwise wisdom, and (3) The source and characteristics of wise wisdom.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Do you tend to picture the early Church as having it altogether—continually living in humble, sacrificial, unity? How does this passage in James shape that view? Does it encourage or discourage you more?
3. Name a time when you were wise in your own eyes. Where did that “wisdom” come from? What was the result?
4. Why is it a problem to have leaders who are wise in their own eyes?
5. Have you ever thought of it as your responsibility (as a member of the church) to “confirm wisdom”?
6. Which source of unwise wisdom (the world, the flesh, and the devils) are you most susceptible listening to?
7. Which characteristic of unwise wisdom is easiest for you to spot? Which is easiest for you to fall into?
8. How earnestly do you pursue wise wisdom from God? Have you had a hard or easy time finding it?
9. Which characteristic of wise wisdom do you see most in Grace? In your own life? Which do you wish were more prevalent?
10. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

11. Determine in faith to live only by wise wisdom. Be careful this week to test whatever comes to you as wisdom.
12. Help one person who is walking in unwise wisdom in a specific area to turn to wise wisdom.
13. Consider carefully where you might be allowing the world, the flesh, or the devils to shape your “wisdom”.
14. Pray and think over the characteristics of unwise wisdom. Where you find any in yourself, trace them back to the unwise wisdom that is producing them. Focus especially on the disordering fruit of unwise wisdom.
15. Commit to a Bible reading plan, come to Berea, and listen more carefully to the sermon, in order to grow in wise wisdom.
16. Ask someone who has a good understanding of God’s Word to help you see any unwise wisdom in you.
17. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

18. Adoration. Praise God for being all-wise. Praise God for being a wisdom-sharing God. Praise God for being merciful and gracious. Praise God for loving His people. Praise God for speaking clearly.
19. Confession. Confess any ways you have been living according to unwise wisdom. Confess any ways you’ve been indifferent to the unwise wisdom of your friends. Confess any reluctance to read and study the Bible to gain wisdom.
20. Thanksgiving. Thank God for whatever characteristics of wise wisdom you find in your life and church. Thank God for giving us His Word that we might know how to walk in a manner pleasing to Him. Thank God for good, wise friends and leaders.
21. Supplication. Ask God to make us wise. Ask God to help us identify whatever unwise wisdom is in us. Ask God to draw someone in your life to Jesus this week. Ask God to drive away all false teaching. Ask God to fill us with trust in Him.