

WHERE WISDOM COMES FROM

James 3:13-18

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INTRODUCTION

- A. A minister, a Boy Scout, and a computer expert were the only passengers on a small plane. The pilot came back to the cabin and said that the plane was going down but there were only three parachutes and four people. The pilot added, "I should have one of the parachutes because I have a wife and three small children." So he took one and jumped. The computer whiz said, "I should have one of the parachutes because I am the smartest man in the world and everyone needs me." So he took one and jumped. The minister turned to the Boy Scout and with a sad smile said, "You are young and I have lived a rich life, so you take the remaining parachute, and I'll go down with the plane." The boy Scout said, "Relax, Reverend, the smartest man in the world just picked up my knapsack and jumped out!
- B. Intelligence isn't the same thing as wisdom. Where does wisdom come from, though?
1. In James 1:5, James says it comes from God.
 2. In James 3:13-18, James defines what true wisdom is. What is it?

I. FIRST, TRUE WISDOM IS ACTIVE.

- A. In James 2:14 & 18, James says that faith is not just something you believe, its something you do.
- B. Now in James 3:13 he says the same thing about wisdom. Wisdom isn't something we know, its something we do.
- C. It becomes evident, James says, in two ways.
1. First, through a good life-v. 13a.
 2. Second, through good deeds-v. 13b.

II. SECOND, FALSE WISDOM IS SELF-SERVING.

- A. In verse 13b, James says true wisdom is humble.
- Illustration:
John Brodie, former quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, was once asked why a million-dollar player like him should have to hold the ball for field goals and points after touchdown. "Well," said Brodie, "if I didn't, it would fall over."
- B. In verses 14-16, James says false wisdom isn't humble. Instead, its self-serving. He uses two words to express false wisdom.
1. First, false wisdom is envious-v. 14a.. False wisdom seeks to serve oneself over others because its envious of other people.
 2. Second, false wisdom is selfishly ambitious. James isn't condemning ambition, but rather selfish ambition that says I will do whatever it takes to reach my goals even if it means walking over others to do it.

III. THIRD, TRUE WISDOM HAS EIGHT CHARACTERISTICS (VV.17-18).

- A. First, its **pure**-pure rather than selfish motives.
- B. Second, its **peace loving**-lives in harmony with others rather than in competition with them-v.17 & 18.
- C. Third, its **considerate**-puts others ahead of oneself.
- D. Fourth, its **submissive**-open to reason and willing to learn from others.
- E. Fifth, its **merciful**-willing to give others a second chance.
- F. Sixth, it **produces good fruit**-treats others right.
- G. Seventh, its **impartial**-treats everyone the same.
- H. Eighth, its **sincere**-genuinely cares about others.

CONCLUSION

- A. There was a blond who was sick of all the blond jokes. One day, she decided to get a make over, so she cut and dyed her hair. She also went out and bought a new convertible. She

went driving down a country road and came across a herd of sheep. She stopped and called the sheep herder over.

"That's a nice flock of sheep" she said. "Well thank you" said the herder.

"Tell you what. I have a proposition for you" said the woman. "If I can guess the exact number of sheep in your flock, can I take one home?"

"Sure" said the sheep herder. So, the girl sat up and looked at the herd for a second and then replied "382". "Wow" said the herder. "That is exactly right. Go ahead and pick out the sheep you want to take home."

So the woman went and picked one out and put it in her car.

Then, the herder said "Okay, now I have a proposition for you".

"What is it?" Queried the woman. "If I can guess the real color of your hair, can I have my dog back?"

- B. If you want to have true wisdom ask God for it-James 1:5.
- C. Then demonstrate it by the way you treat others.