

Impact 3:16

Two Wisdoms (Ja 3:13-18)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of 3:16 lessons that should have an impact on our lives.
 - a. Last week we looked at “All Scripture Is Inspired”
 - i. **II Ti 3:16** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”¹
 - b. Today we are going to be looking at “Earthly Wisdom.”
 - i. **Ja 3:16** “For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.”
3. Background on our text.
 - a. The book of James is called a general epistle for a reason.
 - i. It deals with many “general” issues the church was facing.
 - ii. James is writing to Christians that are spiritually immature and of need of maturing in many different areas, mostly dealing with the need to “do the work of the Lord.”
 - b. James, in chapter 3, starts on the expectations, and dangers teachers must be aware of.
 - i. The danger is every word has potential corrupt.
 - a. With the tongue we “bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.”
 - ii. The expectation is every word has the potential to teach truth in love.
 - a. That is why James says “My brothers, these things ought not to be so.” The tongue should be a vessel of truth and love.
 - iii. **Ja 3:1-12**
 - c. James continues, in chapter 3, by asking a question that starts the next of his thoughts, “Who is wise and understanding among you?”
 - i. It is here James contrasts the two different wisdoms from which teachers glean their motivation.
 - a. Earthly/worldly wisdom
 - b. Heavenly wisdom
 - ii. **Ja 3:13-18**
4. It is within this section we find out text today.
 - a. Let us today then look at what James, inspired by God, wanted the brethren to know concerning the wisdom of teachers.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Impact 3:16

I. Earthly Wisdom

- A. Some teachers teach from bitter jealousy & selfish ambition
 - 1. Bitter jealousy
 - i. This is a compound word meaning pungent zeal.
 - 2. Selfish ambition
 - i. This word means to win or hire followers to your side.
 - 3. Thus, we find that some teachers with pungent zeal selfishly seek people to follow them rather than God.
- B. Teachers who have bitter jealousy & selfish ambition will boast & lie
 - 1. Boast
 - i. This is an interesting word meaning to boast one's self to the injury of another or something.
 - 2. Lie
 - i. This word is that which we all know & have been taught since our youth, to speak against truth.
 - 3. Thus, we find that teachers that teach from bitter jealousy & selfish ambition will build themselves up at the expense of others and go against truth in to do so.
- C. Is this not the wisdom of this world
 - 1. Rise to the top of the "corporate ladder" at any cost.
 - i. It doesn't matter who you step on as you step up!!!
 - 2. Even in religion we find this.
 - i. How many "evangelicals" have destroyed others' lives because they threatened their "popularity."
- D. Teachers who glean from earthly wisdom will always fall short
 - 1. Teachers are to glean from zeal but not bitter zeal.
 - i. **Pr 23:17** "Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day" (NKJV)
 - ii. **Je 20:9** "If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot."
 - 2. Teachers are to glean from ambition (win others to Christ) but not selfish ambition.
 - i. **Ro 9:3** "For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh."

Impact 3:16

E. Thus...

1. Teachers who have a pungent zeal and want others to follow them more than God are going to think “they” are great and will lead others astray through false teaching. Why? Because their attitude towards God is skewed.
 - i. Falsehood is not merely the hurt of some abstract virtue, or bare rule of right and wrong, but a direct blow at the living Truth (Jn 14:6)...All faintest shades of falsehood tend to the dark one of a fresh betrayal of the Son of man. No class of persons is any more in constant danger of falling short in this category than is the group of teachers and preachers of religious truth. Such persons are accustomed to speaking and having their words accepted; and their attitude tends to become like that mentioned by Shakespeare: I am Sir Oracle, And when I open my lips, let no dog bark." (from Coffman's Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1971-1993 by ACU Press, Abilene Christian University. All rights reserved.)

II. Heavenly Wisdom

A. Some teachers teach from heavenly wisdom

1. Their motivation is based in purity.
 - i. **Ph 4:8** “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”
2. Their motivation is based in peace.
 - i. **I Co 7:15** “...God has called you to peace.”
3. Their motivation is based in gentleness.
 - i. **I Ti 6:11** “But as for you, O man of God...Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.”
4. Their motivation is based in being reasonable.
 - i. **Is 1:18** “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD...”
5. Their motivation is based in mercy.
 - i. **Mt 5:7** “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”
6. Their motivation is based in good fruits.
 - i. **I Ti 4:12** “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”
7. Their motivation is based in being impartial.
 - i. **Ga 3:28** “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
8. Their motivation is based in sincerity.
 - i. **I Ti 1:5** “The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

B. Thus...

1. The teacher who is motivated by heavenly wisdom is the teacher that motivates others to the same.

Impact 3:16

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren I'm reminded of what one person wrote we are all like cars moving along at pretty good pace. There are things in this life that are going to happen to us both good and bad. The question though is this, "Who is driving you...the Bible tells us that there are only two possible drivers for our cars. James identifies them in the verses of our text. One driver is false wisdom, and the other is true wisdom." (Ellsworth, R. (2009). Opening up James (117). Leominster: Day One Publications.)
 - a. There are only two drivers.
2. Question: Who is driving you? The wisdom from above or the wisdom from below?
 - a. If you are driven by the wisdom from above continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If you are driven by the wisdom from below why continue in it as it leads to destruction.
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**