Sermon Notes

James 3:13-18

Shoe-leather Christianity

For May 18, 2008 | **LESSON 7** | Dr. Jerry Nelson

Questions are to be completed the week of May 11 leading up to the sermon on May 18.

Two Kinds of Wisdom

Read James 3:13-18 and answer the following questions:

1. (3:13) What demonstrates wisdom and understanding? James 3:1 may give us insight into who the "wise and understanding" are.

   How are wisdom and understanding manifested?

   How does James describe the good life?

2. (3:14) Think about it: How might a leader "harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition" in his/her heart? In what way might they "boast" or "deny the truth"?

3. (3:15) To what "wisdom" is James referring? Is it from verse 13 or 14?

   What is James' three-fold description of this "wisdom?"

4. (3:16) What results from church leaders harboring envy and selfish ambition?

5. (3:17) In verses 14-16, James describes one kind of "wisdom." Here in verses 17-18 James continues to describe the "wisdom" he first mentions in verse 13. What eight characteristics does James ascribe to this kind of wisdom?

6. (3:18) James selects one of the eight characteristics given in verse 17 and develops it. What does a peacemaker do and what is the result?

Memory Verse: James 3:13
Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

For VerseMinder go to http://soundliving.org/verseminder.shtml

Personal Reflection

Wisdom is not measured by what we know, but rather, by what we say and do. What do your deeds indicate about your wisdom?

Envy and selfish ambition, fueled by boasting or denial, result in disorder and every evil practice. Do you struggle with envy or selfish ambition with one or two people? What is the fruit of such attitudes?

"The fruit of wisdom (from heaven) is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, and full of mercy." As you think about these, think about specific situations in your life where these are true of you. Take time to thank and praise God for the good fruit He is producing in you.

Thoughts/Questions/Prayer Response