

JAMES - THE ART OF FAITHFUL LIVING

WEEK 7: WISDOM AND THE FOOL

JASON BRINKER - 10/20/24

GROWING TOGETHER *(ANSWER ALL OR JUST SOME OF THE ICE-BREAKERS)*

- What's a piece of advice you got as a kid that you still remember? Was it actually good advice?
- What's something you thought you were really good at until you tried it?
- Have you ever looked up to someone who you thought was wise? What made them so wise?

GROWING WITH GOD *(ANSWER ALL OR JUST SOME OF THE QUESTIONS)*

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA: Godly wisdom aligns with God's truth and brings peace, while worldly wisdom leads to chaos and self-centeredness.

Read, [James 1:5](#), [James 3:13-18](#), & [1 Kings 3:5-9](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

Pastor Jason said we live in a world full of crises—families, marriages, and individuals struggling with identity and brokenness. In the midst of it all, it's easy to look for hope in politicians or worldly solutions, but our true hope isn't in any candidate; it's in Christ. James shows us two kinds of wisdom: godly wisdom, which leads to life, and worldly wisdom, which falls short.

- **In what areas of your life do you notice yourself leaning on worldly wisdom instead of seeking God's wisdom?**
- **Can you share a time when God's wisdom helped you make a choice that honored Him?**
- **How might praying for godly wisdom change the way you respond to the world's challenges?**

When James asks in verse 13, "Who is wise and understanding among you?", he challenges us to look beyond intelligence or titles. Godly wisdom isn't measured by what we know but by how we live. True wisdom shows up in good conduct—living in alignment with God's Word—and in meekness. Recall that Pastor Jason defined meekness as strength under control.

- **How does meekness play a role in showing godly wisdom in your daily life?**
- **Are there areas in your life where you've prioritized knowledge or achievements over living according to God's wisdom?**

In today's world, we often see a trend where people try to reshape God's Word to fit personal beliefs or cultural shifts, rather than letting it transform them. This approach, sometimes seen in "Progressive Christianity," places culture over Scripture, compromising the authority of God's unchanging truth. James would call this worldly foolishness, not godly wisdom. True wisdom means aligning our lives with Scripture, even when it challenges us to change.

- **How have you seen cultural influences challenge or reshape the way people interpret Scripture?**
- **Are there areas in your life where you've struggled to align with biblical truth and if so, How can you seek God's wisdom to live more faithfully to His Word?**

We often mistake strong opinions or intelligence for wisdom. James warns us to discern true wisdom from false. Godly wisdom is evident in a life submitted to God's Word, marked by good conduct and meekness — strength under God's control. In contrast, James tells us in verse 3:14 that worldly wisdom is self-centered, boastful, and even demonic in nature, leading to disorder and destruction. James draws a clear line: we must run from worldly wisdom and seek the wisdom that comes only from God.

- **When you hear the word “meekness,” how does it challenge or support your understanding of strength in the Christian life?**

GROWING IN SCRIPTURE AND OBEDIENCE

Here's the quote Pastor Jason read to us from Charles Ryrie in the book, [*God: As He Longs For You To See Him*](#): "The wisdom of God tells us that God will bring about the best possible results, by the best possible means, for the most possible people, for the longest possible time."

Here are two sources of wisdom James gives us:

- There is Godly wisdom we should seek and follow. (reference, James 3:13)
- There is a worldly wisdom we should reject and run from. (reference, James 3:15)

Faith in Jesus is going to produce fruitfulness in Jesus (Book of James BIG IDEA)

GROWING IN OBEDIENCE

Seek Godly Wisdom (James 3:13-15)

Ask yourself, "Am I pursuing God's wisdom, or am I relying on [my own understanding](#)?" This week, make it a habit to ask God for wisdom before making decisions—big or small. Dive into Scripture to let God's Word shape your thinking and guide your steps. Let His wisdom, not the world's, direct your path.

Life Group Leader: Share a personal story of a time you needed wisdom and how God guided you through it. Encourage members to share moments where they sought God's guidance, fostering a culture of seeking divine wisdom together.

Reject Worldly Wisdom (James 3:14-16)

Consider, "How am I letting the world's wisdom influence my thoughts and decisions?" Identify one worldly mindset that's been shaping your behavior and replace it with a biblical perspective. Whether it's about success, relationships, or identity, choose God's way over the world's.

Life Group Leader: Help the group explore what worldly wisdom looks like today and how it contrasts with godly wisdom. Share examples and stories to make it relatable. You might also encourage members to journal their experiences throughout the week, noting where they've chosen to reject worldly advice.

Align Your Life with God's Truth (James 3:17-18)

Reflect on this question, "Are there areas in my life where I'm following culture's standards instead of God's truth?" This week, identify one belief or habit that isn't in line with Scripture, confess it, and commit to realigning your life with God's Word. Let this step of faith bring peace and spiritual growth.

Life Group Leader: Facilitate a discussion on how cultural influences can pull us away from biblical truth. Share your own experiences of realignment to foster openness. Offer to pair up group members for weekly check-ins to support each other in this journey.

GROWING IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

This week's song list if you'd like to worship with your group.

[Holy Forever](#)

[How Great Is Our God/How Great Thou Art](#)

[That's The Power](#)

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