

INTRODUCTION/SYNSOPSIS:

James 3:1-12 James begins this chapter with a caution of those who would be leaders to examine their motives, and or against many becoming teachers, for one will receive a greater condemnation. In view of the stricter judgment that awaits teachers, they should be sure they possess the maturity and self-control necessary to control the tongue. We all stumble in many ways, and if anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man able to control his whole body (**3:1-2**).

James now gives an illustration of a bit which controls a powerful horse, and a rudder which controls a huge ship emphasizing its size and importance, but the tongue also being a small member, can start a fire, and can defile the whole body, for it has not been tamed by mankind. Mankind can tame creatures of land and sea, but not his tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. It is better to bridle the tongue than to go around setting fires with your temper, which is of the flesh. With it we bless God, and then curse man made in His image. Thus, blessing and cursing proceed from the same mouth; something which should not be so, for no fountain flows forth both fresh (sweet) and salt (bitter) water. Neither does a fig tree bear olives, nor a grapevine bear figs. James issued a warning: The point is: a fountain cannot give forth two kinds of water, and a tree cannot bear two kinds of fruit (**3:3-12**).

If you look at a fork, it has splits. We are not to split our speech. It's damaging to us and to others.

LESSON: I. JAMES 3:13

3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. This part begins a new discussion—Wisdom! It focuses on the temptation and trials common to all, but especially to teachers. The question presented by James: *"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you?"* James is speaking of wisdom which comes from Proverbs 2:6 *"For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."* Well, that only comes from God, and all we have to do is Ask of Him, for James 1:5 says *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not (not reprimanding; not scold); and it shall be given him."* Again, *"Where shall Wisdom be found, and Where is the place of Understanding?"* ¹Those who know more may think that they are better than the other people, but knowledge and wisdom are not the same. A person can know a lot but have little wisdom. However, they need to have both.

Two traits in a wise teacher's life:

1. There is the trait of good conversation (conduct)—how the person behaves and conducts himself, showing how one takes the facts and apply them; that means to live what he teaches and preaches, for a tree is known by its fruit. You cannot teach one thing and do something else.

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/james-lbw.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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2. There is the trait of our works done in meekness. This trait is going to only come from God's Spirit; a fruit of the Spirit. Meekness is strength under control. You're gentle, tender, humble, mild, considerate, yet strong! You have a strong state of mind, denying self, yet you give the utmost consideration to others. You show a control and righteous anger against injustice and evil with a spirit of meekness (humbleness). A meek person imitates what Jesus has done for them.

II. JAMES 3:14-16

3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. If you are bitterly jealous, meaning you're harboring bitter internal attitude of jealousy to fester, and there is selfish ambitions in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. Boasting is self-praise; self-centered individuals who take pride in their own accomplishments. Lying is down-right dishonest. All of which God hates. There are teachers, ministers, and laymen alike who are envious and jealous of others because of their:

- Church and position
- preaching and teaching ability
- leadership and recognition
- charisma and attention
- associates and friends

Comparisons will cut and hurt one another, and therefore create bitter envying and strife in the hearts against God's truth, and this should not be. Wherever there is envying and selfish ambition, you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

3:15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. Jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom, for such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. ²Bitterness and strife of all kinds come from the devil, all things that please the flesh are earthly, or of the earth. Lucifer was jealous, and wanted to be God. You can see that this type of earthly wisdom and power is not spiritual. We must come out of the world (Egypt), before we can go to the Promised Land (for us, heaven). We must do away with all desires of the flesh so God can lead.

3:16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. Wherever you have envying and strife, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

III. JAMES 3:17-18

3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. The wisdom from above is a direct contrast from verse 15 which is not from above, but is earthly.

1. The wisdom from above is first of all pure (pure from fault and defilement; completely separated from wrongdoing, set apart unto God).
2. The wisdom from above is peaceable loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. This wisdom ³promotes harmony and understanding, avoiding quarrels and conflict.
3. The wisdom from above is gentle shows meekness, consideration and being courteous.
4. The wisdom from above is easy to be intreated means being ⁴approachable, open to

² <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/james/05.html>

³ <https://www.bing.com/search?pc=GD01&ptag=3601&form=GDAVST&q=james+3%3A17+study>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



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reason, gentle, and willing to yield or listen to others.

5. The wisdom from above is full of mercy compassion; not getting what we do deserve.
6. The wisdom from above is good fruits full of the character of God's Spirit.
7. The wisdom from above is without partiality; showing no favoritism, and fairly treated.
8. The wisdom from above is without hypocrisy straightforward and sincere.

3:18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. And remember those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace, and reap a harvest of righteousness.

SUMMARY:

13 The question presented by James: *"Who is a wise man and endowed with knowledge among you?"* **14** But if you are bitterly jealous, and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. **15** For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. **16** For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. **17** But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism, and is always sincere. **18** And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace, and reap a harvest of righteousness. (NLT)

APPLICATION:

We must remember that meekness is strength under control. And heavenly wisdom comes from God. Knowing about God is not the same as knowing Him; just like having knowledge and not knowing how to use it is not the same. As we continue to go to God, He increases within us, and also humbling us in how to use the wisdom He gives. When we know the One who is all wise, His strength and peace will show us the heavenly wise way instead of the world's fleshly way, step by step. Ask God about everything. He's the revealer!

