

Enlightened:Part 4 Wisdom from Above

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. In your own opinion, what is the most beautiful place on earth?
2. Would you rather live in a city or a town?

WORD

What is this wisdom that comes from above that James mention in Chapter 3? Let us read the continuation of the Book of James chapter 3.

James 3:13-18

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

Remember that James was the half brother of Jesus. He was writing to early believers, the church scattered among the nations because of persecutions and oppressions. James started this text with a question. *13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.* Was James asking a question or was he telling his readers about who is wise and understanding? James said "Show it in good life" What is good life? Good life is our changed life through Christ - Good life is our Faith in Christ. Show is a verb, its an action word. Meaning you are not just showing it but with action by walking the talk and living what you say. And he said "show it in good deeds which is the Good deeds are the fruits of changed life through Christ, displayed by works.

DISCUSSION

How would you know if you are wise and understanding? How would you know if you are showing or doing it by good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom?

WORD

When you show it with your good life and good deeds, then he continued "It should be done in humility that comes from wisdom." If you want to show your good life and good deeds it can only be done through Christ. Apart from Him we are nothing. But if you say I am doing it, I am showing it. James continues

James 3:14-15

14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

It says BUT if you harbour bitter envy? are you showing a good life? Harbor means to keep a thought or feeling in one's mind secretly. Envy means feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions or qualities, jealousy. If you have selfish ambition in your hearts? Are you showing it in good deeds? Verse 15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. Earthly - carnal, flesh or worldly Unspiritual - that's why James says, “But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart,” because it is not done by the help of the Holy Spirit. Demonic - such action doesn't come from God. It is the opposite of God's heart. It divides. Such wisdom does not come from above but wisdom from below. If there's bitter envy (jealousy) or rivalry/bad competition, it will only produce disorder or confusion, faction and every evil practices

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all :Pure - Holy, Peace - loving - Peaceable, seek to promote peace Considerate - Gentle or Forbearing, Submissive - Compliant, Obedient, Yielding, Full of mercy - Compassionate ,Good fruit - good behaviour, Kind and helpful ,Impartial - Unwavering, without uncertainty, fair, Sincere - Without hypocrisy, Genuine

Heavenly Wisdom-comes from God. Godly wisdom, Divine wisdom, supernaturally uncommon wisdom. It excels over all other wisdom because of its source. It comes from the “only wise God”.

Romans 16:27- to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

DISCUSSION

Which of the traits of worldly wisdom are you most prone to? How will you guard against it? Which of the heavenly wisdom are you most prone to? How will you share it with others?

LIFE APPLICATION

James 3:18 says Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. Truly wise person is a person of peace. He is Jehovah Shalom - The Lord is Peace (Judges 6:24). God's wisdom produces Peace. Wisdom is crucial to live a godly life. What it

produces is what we all want for our lives. Let us choose wisdom (from above) to live our life as peacemakers. Ask God for it. The fruits of wisdom far outweigh the fruits of bitter envy (jealousy).When we reflect on the description of wisdom in James, we are reminded of Jesus. He was after all peaceable, gentle, yielding, merciful, fruitful, impartial and consistent.Jesus was not just a teacher of wisdom from above. He was the embodiment of wisdom from above.

* In 1 Corinthians 1:30 - Jesus became for us wisdom from above

* Thus, we will know that our wisdom is from above if it reflects Jesus, his message, his actions, his death and resurrection. And we will know that we are enacting this wisdom in our own lives if we are becoming more and more like Jesus each day.

VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

1 Corinthians 1:24

but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God

PRAYER

Share your answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.