

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 14, 2016

“Faith that Works: The Letter of James ~

Two Kinds of Wisdom”

James 3:13-18

2 THINGS ABOUT OUR INNATE DESIRE FOR WISDOM

• There’s a big difference between _____ (having facts or information) and _____ (applying those facts to everyday life.)

• There’s a difference between the wisdom of the _____ and the wisdom of _____.

The wisdom of the world is highly _____. It begins and ends with _____.

Human wisdom is rooted in the _____. God’s wisdom is rooted in _____.

Human wisdom _____ with the times. God’s wisdom, however, is the _____ yesterday, today, and forever.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.” (Proverbs 3:5)

“Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do. Whatever else you get, get insight! Love wisdom and she will make you great.” (Prov 4:7)

“For wisdom is more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare to it.” (Proverbs 8:11)

How important is it for you to have Godly wisdom?

What price are you willing to pay for it—what sacrifices are you willing to make?

**GODLY WISDOM & FALSE WISDOM:
ROOTS, ATTRIBUTES, & FRUIT**

False Wisdom: The Roots

“But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be boastful and false to the truth.” (James 3:14)

James tells us that the root of false wisdom is the _____.

• **Bitter envying = zelos =**

• **Selfish ambition = eritheia = _____** and carries the connotation of intense _____ brought on by extreme _____.

• **Boastful = katakauchaomi =**

Is my heart consumed with envy and jealousy?

Does it selfishly elevate me above others?

Is it arrogant and self-glorifying?

False Wisdom: The Attributes

“Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish.” (James 3:15)

One way we can know is to learn through our 5 _____. The second way that we can learn is through _____. However there is a _____ to what both of these can tell us.

“Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.” (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11)

James calls this kind of reasoning _____ wisdom—wisdom that comes from within our own _____, fallen minds.

How dependent am I on my 5 senses and my reason to know things?

False Wisdom: The Fruit

“A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit...Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.” (Matthew 7:17-20)

“For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.” (James 3:16)

THE BAD FRUIT OF FALSE WISDOM

• **Disorder = akatastasia =**

• **Wickedness**

“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery,

hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these.” (Galatians 5:19-21)

Is any of this fruit laying at my feet?

Godly Wisdom: The Root

“But the wisdom from above is first pure...” (James 3:17)

According to James, the root of Godly wisdom is a pure _____.

“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)

God is _____ and if He allows Himself to be joined in relationship to imperfect beings, He will be tainted and _____.

According to James, this perfection comes from _____.

“The human heart is the most deceitful, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

_____ is the only One who can know our desperately wicked hearts because He had a heart of flesh just like ours. He was tempted in every way that we are, but did not _____.

He’s able to _____ our desperately wicked heart and give us a _____ one—a heart that’s _____; a heart that’s _____; a heart that will _____ God.

“And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.” (Ezekiel 36:26)

How pure is my heart?

Could I benefit from a spiritual heart transplant?

Godly Wisdom: The Attributes

“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.” (James 3:17)

3 WAYS TO DEVELOP THESE ATTRIBUTES

- **Being _____ of self.**

One of the most important values our culture upholds is _____.

Esteem =

We can’t be peaceable, gentle and agreeable if we’re esteeming _____.
We can only be peaceable, gentle and agreeable if we’re full of the _____.

- **Being _____.**

If my heart is filled with self, I cant be filled with the things of _____.

The only way to empty our hearts of self is to _____ the one we’re esteeming. Instead of esteeming self, we need to esteem _____.
And when we esteem Jesus, then we can be _____ with the Holy Spirit.

- **Being _____.**

When we’re empty of self and filled with the Holy Spirit, we will be absent of _____. We won’t show the kind of _____ we talked about a couple of weeks ago. We won’t show the kind of _____ that plagues our churches today.

What am I full of? Am I full of myself or am I full of the Spirit?

Godly Wisdom: The Fruit

“And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.” (James 3:18)

Righteousness =

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

The fruit of the Spirit is _____ fruit that manifests itself in our lives in all those different ways.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)

Righteous fruit that’s planted in fields of peace will _____ and _____ more righteous fruit; and then that fruit is planted and bears more and more fruit

Can I see the fruit of righteousness in my life?

Do I hunger and thirst for it?