
SERMON NOTES June 28, 2020

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

Wise and Foolish Wisdom James 3:13-17 Pastor Mike

- I. The _____ of wisdom
Wisdom is understanding and _____ according to what is _____
- II. The two common _____ in discovering wisdom
- a. Knowing truth which we fail to _____ and _____
 - b. We adopt and _____ the _____ wisdom
- III. Understanding the nature of the _____ wisdom
- a. The _____ of the world's wisdom
 - b. The _____ of the world's wisdom
 - c. The _____ of the world's wisdom
- IV. Understanding the nature of _____ wisdom
- a. The _____ of true wisdom
 - b. _____ of true wisdom
 - c. The _____ of true wisdom
- V. The one _____ to true wisdom

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. What is wisdom?
 - a. What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge and/or education? Can you think of people who are smart and highly educated but who lack wisdom?
 - b. Who is the wisest person you know, and what about them makes them so wise?
 - c. How important is wisdom? Why is it so important, and what are the consequences of lacking wisdom?
 - d. Read Proverbs 4:5-8. Verse 7 teaches, *“the beginning of wisdom is this; Get wisdom”*. How do we get wisdom? What are you doing to get wisdom?
2. James 3:13-18 contrasts the wisdom of the world (or wisdom that is *“earthly, unspiritual, and demonic”*) with true Biblical wisdom (or *“the wisdom from above”*).
 - a. What is the difference between the wisdom of the world and true Biblical wisdom? Can you think of examples of the world’s wisdom which is at odds with Biblical wisdom?
 - b. Some have argued that “all wisdom is God’s wisdom,” suggesting that as believers we can learn transcendent nuggets of wisdom from secular sources. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
 - c. If we allow for this, how can we discern what nuggets of wisdom are at their core earthly and unspiritual, and what are consistent with God’s wisdom from above?
 - d. Is it possible for something to “work” (however we might define that term) even toward the accomplishment of a good goal and still be wrong?
3. In his message Pastor Mike pointed out that James is not contrasting the world’s wisdom taught by unbelievers outside the church with the true wisdom taught by people in the church, but he is confronting people, including teachers, within the church who had adopted and were teaching the world’s values and wisdom. In 3:14 James says that they were proud of what they were teaching.
 - a. How easy it is to confuse earthly wisdom with Biblical wisdom?
 - b. How common is it to make “what works in the world the basis for our wisdom?
 - c. Pastor Mike said that a part of the problem is that we tend to adopt the world’s wisdom and then sanctify it with Biblical sounding language, and then teach it as if it is Biblical. Can you think of examples where you’ve done that, or seen it done?
 - d. James is confronting people who had done with, who likely didn’t realize that they had done this – they really thought their ‘wisdom’ was godly. How can we evaluate our wisdom to make sure it has the right source?
4. James 3:17 lists seven characteristics of true wisdom. As you read through these seven characteristics, which do you feel is lacking the most in your own life? Which do you feel God is calling you to focus on right now?
5. If honestly assess the fruit of your wisdom, what does it reveal about the source of your wisdom?