



Just Live by the Wisdom from Above

today we'll be talking from James 3:13-18 and our topic is...

Just live by the wisdom from above!

pretty important passage here, you might even argue

=> crux, haha, of the book

james is about wisdom and action

=> this passage is going to put the asterisk next to those

yes wisdom yes action, but needs to be a specific type of wisdom a specific type of action

=> words of fletcher from whiplash: needs be a certain tempo

wisdom and action need to line up with God's vision for wisdom and action

so, lets see that in the text...

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James 3:13-18

here are five points from this passage so that you can "Just live by the wisdom from above"

Wisdom reveals itself in action

v13

james starts off this passage asking a question

=> in a prove it/reminder kind of a tone, he's trying to elicit a specific type of response..

=> if you claim to be wise... then

again this is familiar to what James has been saying in his book so far...

Action is a required process of the faith experience

=> not just a hearer but a doer 1:22

=> 2:14-26, faith without works is dead

in fact isn't that what wisdom really is? KNOWLEDGE PUT INTO ACTION

=> anyone can accumulate knowledge, information and facts

=> the wise person is the one who sifts through this information, makes a decision, and acts on it

=> this is something we do better at, we live in a time and space with access to unlimited knowledge/information

=> but do we act correctly on it?

but action is not enough...

=> needs a certain quality to it

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When we choose to live by the wisdom from above good conduct and humility will follow

v13

now v17 helps us to get the wisdom from above part that v13 isn't as specific on

but here's the asterisk to yes wisdom and yes action from james' letter

=> do-er/works = good conduct

=> there needs to be a certain quality to our behavior

=> wisdom = leads to humility

=> said earlier wisdom is the product of sifting through information, and acting on it

=> THE ACTION OF SOMEONE LIVING BY THE WISDOM FROM ABOVE IS HUMILITY

Greek word: πραυτης

*=> some translations: gentle, meek, NIV: **humility***

=> word connotes the idea of: not being overly impressed by a sense of one's self-importance

=> huge word in helping us understand this passage in light of v14-15 especially

part of being wise in the eyes of Scripture is humility

=> this is thoroughly God's way

=> its why we can even have church, a gathering to celebrate Jesus

Philippians 2:5-11

Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, 6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage.^[a] 7 Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, 8 He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross. 9 For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth— 11 and

every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord
[b] to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus' life was marked by humility

=> fully God

*=> yet gave up the privileges associated with
being God*

=> went and died for us

in the eyes of the world this is foolishness not wisdom

*=> if you've earned your spot, take full advantage
of it, push your weight around so people see your
greatness*

*but without this "foolishness" we couldn't have our sin,
our rebellion against God and his ways forgiven*

*=> this is the good news! this is why we gather and
why we sing praises to God and Jesus*

*=> because he didn't act the way the world
says we should act when we're great*

*=> some of you need to know the gift of
forgiveness that you have in the humble man of
Christ*

*here's why this wisdom revealing itself in humility is
such a big deal...*

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Earthly, unspiritual, demonic wisdom will reveal itself in selfish ambition and bitter envy

v14-15

now I said wisdom is action based on information

=> so what information are we intaking?

earthly = not from above

unspiritual = minus God just world

demonic = spiritual in opposition to God

James makes it clear here that when our intake is not from above (if its earthly, unspiritual demonic) then our actions are not going to look like God's

=> raises the question of what are you intaking on a daily basis?

selfish ambition and bitter envy are the exact opposite of humility

=> in fact those qualities are pride oriented, which in the next chapter James is going to roast

why should we look at selfish ambition and bitter envy with hostility?

=> they're reason our world is the way that it is right now

=> if you remember back to our previous series This Is Us, where we talked about the human condition and who we're created to be, and who we can be

=> reason for having to talk about who we can be now, because something went wrong

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. 3 But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'" 4 "No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "In fact, God knows that when^[a] you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God,^[b] knowing good and evil."

reason why James uses the word demonic

=> he'll also bring up the devil in the next chapter again when talking about pride

but just think about the temptation here...

=> God doesn't want you to be like him

=> selfish ambition: take your rightful place

=> bitter envy: discontent with your status as created instead of creator

but can there ever be two ideas that so perfectly encapsulate where we live?

selfish ambition

bitter envy

Orange county is where the tops dogs come, or the people driven to be top dogs

Orange county is not where you come to settle and be content, constantly motivated for more and better

here's the problem...

=> actions produce consequences/fruit

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Depending on the wisdom we choose to live by (from above vs. earthly/unspiritual/demonic we will reap a certain kind of harvest

v16-18 (focus v16)

actions are going to flow from our source of wisdom

=> good conduct and humility

=> selfish ambition and bitter envy

those actions are going to produce a harvest that we'll reap

if we choose to live according to the world's wisdom we'll reap disorder and evil

=> again thinking about our situation here in Orange County

=> how many families/lives ruined because we're living self-centered lives, that are all about us become the best?

=> or because we can never find contentment with what we have?

=> evil coming about as we will use any means necessary to get to the top, or to bring others down, so that we don't feel bad about our present situation?

=> last week talked about the tongue and words

=> words influenced by our selfish ambition and bitter envy?

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Choosing to live by the wisdom from above will keep us focused on God & not the world, and help us to love people

v17-18

focused on God

=> first pure: no corruption, no double mindedness (1:8)

=> no love for the world (next chapter)

=> without hypocrisy

=> no double life, say one thing do something else

love people

*=> peace-loving, gentle, full of mercy, no favoritism
(2:1-13 rich over poor)*