



Sermon Discussion Guide

June 8, 2025 | James 3:13-25 | Jim Kramer

SUMMARY

Big Idea: True Wisdom Isn't Built by Pride, it's Formed by the Spirit and bears the fruit of purity, mercy, and peace.

This passage forms another *diagnostic mirror* for the believer. Wisdom is not a tone, nor is it the ability to articulate pithy sayings; rather, true wisdom is a transformational way of life. James calls us in this passage to consider not only what we believe, but how we behave. Earthly wisdom may appear smart and/or powerful, but it is rooted in pride, bearing corresponding fruits. God's wisdom is radically different: it is fundamentally humble and bears the fruit of peace that both honors God and edifies others. This kind of wisdom cannot be produced by our own efforts; rather, it is given by God (see James 1:5), it is grown in surrender and shown in love. It is Christ-purchased and given, while spirit-empowered to live out.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Intro

1. "Who is wise among you?" (v13). Who do you consider to be wise? (in your life, in the world)
 - a. Why? What indicators or characteristics do you typically see, understand, and interpret as being "wise"?

READ James 3:13-18

2. How does James contrast two kinds of wisdom?
 - a. Where do they originate, in what direction do they lead, where do they end up?
3. James says wisdom is shown by good conduct. What does that look like in your life right now?
4. List out and define all the traits and fruits that James says accompany earthly wisdom.
 - a. What does this look like in and around you?
 - b. Which one(s) are you most tempted by or prone to?
5. List out of the traits and fruits that James says correspond to godly wisdom.
 - a. When/Where have you seen this kind of wisdom on display?
 - b. Which one(s) do you most desire to grow in? Why?
6. Define meekness. What role does meekness play in true wisdom?
 - a. In what specific ways does Jesus model this kind of wisdom?
7. What does it mean to be a "peacemaker", as opposed to being merely a "peacekeeper?" (Intentionally entering into conflict in order to bring about peace - vs - trying to avoid all possibilities of conflict)
 - a. What does that difference look like and mean in your life?
8. How does the cross of Christ redefine what true wisdom looks like?
9. What do you think it would look like for your family, life group, or church family, to grow in practicing wisdom from above? What changes would take place?