

WHO IS WISE ?

Int.

1. Aim: To show what a man will be like if he is wise.
2. Text James 3:13 (ASV) "Who is wise and understanding among you? let him show by his good life his works in meekness of wisdom." James 3:13 (KJV) "Who [is] a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."
3. Man has always been interested in wisdom
 - a. Gen. 3:1-6 The serpent used the promise of wisdom to tempt Eve v. 6 "to make one wise."
 - b. Men like to have wisdom and will do much in order to gain it.
4. But there is a difference between knowledge and wisdom
 - a. A person may have knowledge and not be wise, and one may be wise and be unlearned.
 - b. Knowledge = is possession of facts
 - c. Wisdom = is the proper application
 - d. Knowledge comes from study and wisdom comes from God.
5. Jas. 1:5 NKJV "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.."
6. The person who has this wisdom is described in the Bible.
7. Who is wise ?

Discussion

I. ONE WHO LIVES A GOOD LIFE

A. James gives the answer....

1. Jas. 3:13 (ASV) "Who is wise and understanding among you? let him show by his good life his works in meekness of wisdom."
 - a. Wisdom is demonstrated by the life we conduct
 - b. Paraphrase: Let him who comprehends the spiritual truths and who is able to give good advice show the spirit of Christ by the life he lives with his courteous and considerate relation with others.
 - c. Worldly standards for wisdom are measured by:
 - (1) I.Q. tests - that measures intelligence
 - (2) Degrees from Colleges and Universities B.A. BS MA PHD
 - (3) Being able to impress us with oratory or wit!
 - d. God's standard of wisdom is different - we show wisdom by the life we live!!
2. Good life
 - a. Good works or good deeds
 - b. Jas. 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world."
 - (1) Visit fatherless and widows
 - (a) Not talking about a social visit
 - (b) Assist them in their afflictions or problems
 - (2) Keep unspotted from the world - Clean, pure living

3. Meekness

a. Many people who are filled with pride think that is the way of wisdom

b. But James tells us that those who are truly wise are Meek!!

(1) Meekness is not weakness

(2) The Greeks used this word to refer to a horse that had been broken to ride.

(3) It meant strength that was harnessed and directed to good things.

(4) So the word meekness means "**Gentle Strength**"

c. This kind of person is meek and lowly in heart — Meekness avoids an arrogant, proud, and unrestrained spirit in doing good deeds

4. James tells us that these are the things that show a man to be wise.

B. 1 Cor. 3:18,19 "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

1. The wisdom of the world will not really make us wise

2. Worldly wisdom is foolishness with God

C. Controlling the Tongue!!! - is a necessity in living the good life

1. It takes great wisdom to control the tongue.

a. In this chapter James has been discussing the tongue

b. The tongue can be the most wicked member of our body if it is not controlled with wisdom

2. In verses 14-16 - if earthly wisdom is in control of the tongue here is what will happen Jas. 3:14-16 "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but [is] earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife [is], there [is] confusion and every evil work."
- a. Bitter envy or jealousy --- Strife ----- Lying
 - b. This kind of wisdom is earthly, sensual and devilish
 - c. There is confusion and every evil work
 - (1) Disorder, disturbance
 - (2) People resort to whatever is necessary to get what they want
 - d. A wise man refrains his tongue from:
 - (1) Cursing - Ex. 20:7 "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."
 - (2) Filthy speaking - Col. 3:8 "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."
 - (3) Railing - 1 Tim. 6:4,5 "He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, 5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." Railing = quarreling, contention, strife, evil speaking
 - (4) Hasty Words - Jas 1:19 "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"

(5) **Deceit - Jer. 9:8** "Their tongue is an arrow shot out; It speaks deceit; One speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, But in his heart he lies in wait."

(6) Flattery - Prov. 26:28 "A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.."

e. Gossip is a most common sin.

(1) Spreading secrets and lies

(2) It is defined as... A report (often malicious) about the behavior of other people. A person given to gossiping and divulging personal information about others.

(3) A person who spreads rumors or idle, fruitless tales (Nelson's Bible Dictionary).

3. In verses 17-18 he describes what happens when true wisdom is in control of the tongue Jas. 3:17-18 NKJV "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.."

a. Contrasts of this wisdom from above with that from the earth

b. Contrasts:

(1) Pure - uncontaminated - unmixed - not some bad and some good, all good

(2) Peaceable - peace-loving, peace in heart because it is pure

(3) Gentle - fair, does not demand own way - courteous, considerate

(4) Willing to yield- open to reason, ready to hear

(5) Full of mercy and good fruits - compassion to help

(6) Without partiality - stable - Jas. 1:8 "A double minded man [is] unstable in all his ways."

(7) Without hypocrisy - no pretense, no acting

c. The fruit of righteousness: - Matt. 7:20

(1) Righteousness = right doing

(2) The good that the righteous do

D. A wise person learns to control his tongue - our life is greatly influenced by our tongue.

1. Prov. 10:19 NKJV "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.."

 - a. Impossible to speak much and yet speak nothing but the truth
 - b. Can't do good by much speaking Wise = intelligent

2. Prov. 17:28 "Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: [and] he that shutteth his lips [is esteemed] a man of understanding."
3. Prov. 29:11 "A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise [man] keepeth it in till afterwards."
4. Ps. 39:1 "To the chief Musician, [even] to Jeduthun, A Psalm of David. I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me."
5. Prov. 21:23 "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles."
6. 1 Pet. 3:10 "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:"

II. THE WISE WILL LISTEN TO COUNSEL

A. Prov. 12:15 NKJV "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise." Fool = silly Wise = intelligent

1. The fool will not listen
 - a. No one can tell him anything
 - b. He has to learn everything the hard way / or he never learns
2. A wise man will listen
 - a. He will hearken unto counsel or advice
 - b. A wise man realizes he does not know everything and can learn from others
 - c. Ps. 1:1 - he will not listen to the counsel of the ungodly, but the Godly -
"Blessed [is] the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

B. The Bible tells of an unreasonable man

1. 2 Thes. 3:2 - "And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all [men] have not faith."
 - a. Disorderly,
 - b. Under no discipline
 - c. Out of place
2. Fools fall in this class
3. They are devoid of reason

III. THE WISE PERSON WINS SOULS

- A. Prov. 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous [is] a tree of life; and he that winneth souls [is] wise."
1. When teaching a lost soul you are working with the most valuable material -
Mk. 8:36,37 "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"
 2. The soul is eternal - it will last forever - Ecl. 12:7
 3. What we give of our time, money, enthusiasm, tears, and labor to the salvation of souls is ours and ours forever.
 4. Everything else will perish
- B. Jesus commanded us to preach the gospel to every creature - Mk. 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."
- C. Ezk. 33:8,9 NKJV "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 9 "Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul."
1. We must teach the lost
 2. Unless we try to win souls we must go before God with our hands stained with the blood of the lost.

CONCLUSION

1. Who is wise ?
 - a. One who lives a good life - filled with meekness and controls the tongue
 - b. A person who will listen to counsel
 - c. Those who wins souls
 2. Ask God for wisdom - heavenly wisdom
 3. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." James 1:5 ESV
 4. Are you living as a wise man? Or a Foolish man?
 5. Mt. 7:24-27
 - a. Wise man = hears and obeys
 - b. Foolish man = hears but does not obey
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Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning July 5, 2009
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