November 1, 2026 **Pastor Andy McClellan**
Series Title: James
Sermon Title: "Dueling Wisdom"
Text: James 3:13-18

1. True wisdom is shown by **BEHAVIOR**, not mere **INTELLECT**, v. 13 *(see also 2:18; 3:1; Psalm 107:43; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Ephesians 4:1-2).*

2. Earthly wisdom produces **ARROGANCE** and **EVIL**, vv. 14-16 *(see also 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:1-8; 2 Cor. 12:20; Galatians 5:19-21; Eph. 4:17-19; Philippians 2:3; Jude 1:19).*

3. Heavenly wisdom produces **HUMILITY** and **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, vv. 13, 17-18 *(see also 1:5, 17, 21; Proverbs 30:2-4; Isaiah 32:17; Matthew 5:5, 9; Romans 12:9-21; 1 Cor. 1:24; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 4:20-32; Colossians 2:2-3; 1 Timothy 6:11; 1 Peter 2:12).*

FOR FURTHER STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. Who is someone in your life who you consider to be very wise and why? How do you see that wisdom lived out in their behavior? What would you say about a person who spoke wisely, but whose life didn't show it? According to James 3:13, what's the relationship between wisdom and behavior? What should be the normal behavior of a wise person?
2. Make a list of the words James uses in vv. 14-16 to describe earthly wisdom? Where do we see this kind of wisdom being both promoted and lived out today? How can certain media and entertainment feed this wisdom to us? When we follow it, how does it affect our relationships (home, church, etc.)? Where, in your own life, do you recognize the influence of this wisdom? What is/has been the result? What would repentance look like for you?
3. Make a list of the words James uses in vv. 13, 17-18 to describe the true "wisdom from above." What's the difference between this heavenly wisdom and the earthly wisdom of vv. 14-16? When we follow heavenly wisdom, how does it affect our relationships (home, church, etc.)? Where, in your own life, do you recognize the influence of this wisdom? What is/has been the result? Are there areas in your life right now where you need to follow and apply this wisdom? How, according to James 1:5, can you get it?
4. After you ask the Lord to give you wisdom for a particular situation, read these passages and ask Him to help you apply them to whatever scenario you had in mind: Romans 12:9-21, Galatians 5:22-23, and Ephesians 4:20-32.
5. Verse 17 identifies this wisdom "from above." Read Proverbs 30:2-4, 1 Cor. 1:24, and Colossians 2:2-3. What do these texts teach us about the ultimate source of all wisdom? How did Jesus demonstrate the true heavenly wisdom of God in his life? Why, then, is it so necessary that we depend on our union with Jesus and keep our eyes fixed on him as we seek to apply heavenly wisdom to our lives? What happens when we attempt to pursue the characteristics of heavenly wisdom in our own strength and apart from depending on him?

NEXT WEEK: James 4:1-12, Asa Hart
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