**“People of Wisdom”**

Going deeper in James 3:13-18

**INTRODUCTION**

In the passage prior to this James has been talking about the power of our words for good and bad. In the following passage he digs into a theme that he has touched on briefly earlier.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 13 Who among you wants to be considered wise? You show it by living it; living wisely and living humbly. 14 Bitter jealousy is not wisdom. Self-centeredness is not wisdom. Boasting is not and twisting the truth is not.15 This kind of “wisdom” does not come from heaven, but is earthly, unspiritual, and is part of the devil’s playbook. 16 Whenever you are trying to look better than others or seeking your own selfish desires then confusion and worthless things start to happen. 17 Real wisdom, the kind that comes from God, is motivated by pure intentions then peace, kindness, willingness to consider others, mercy-filled, bringing good fruit, impartiality, and real sincerity. 18 The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who are peacemakers.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What do you think the Bible’s definition of wisdom is? What are the characteristics of wisdom that you find in these verses?

2. Of the characteristics of “earthly wisdom” listed in verse 14 which are the ones that you wrestle with? Have you asked the Lord to help with these? What advice would you give to someone else who was wrestling with the ones you have struggled with?

3. What are the characteristics of “heavenly wisdom” in verses 17-18? Which are the ones that you aspire to? Have you asked for the Lord’s help? What advice would you give to someone else who was wrestling with the ones you have struggled with?

4. Who have you known that has been a good example of this kind of wisdom?

5. Where does the power to live with wisdom come from (see James 1:5)?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Praise the Lord for His characteristics of purity, peace, kindness, love, and mercy toward you and all of humanity.

\*Pray for the kind of wisdom that is in this passage.

\*Thank the Lord for hearing and answering your prayer.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

James shows us that living with wisdom has to do with our character (pure intentions, peace-loving, kind, willingness to consider others, full of mercy, bearing good fruit, and being a peacemaker). The power to live this kind of life comes from God (James 1:5). Will you ask Him for this and live this way this week?