

The Real Deal a study of the book of James *chapter 3
ADMONISH: (verb) to remind, counsel, warn or inspire

“If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life,.. James 3: 13a



Why would James be so concerned about the topics of “words” and “wisdom”? Perhaps it is because what we say and how we think make the difference in all of our relationships. It was true centuries ago and it is still true today. Imagine a family, a classroom, a church, or any group of people who know how to communicate graciously, kindly and always speak truthfully but lovingly. Imagine that in this same group there is no jealousy or boasting or lying or selfishness. While you and I cannot change others, it just might be that this kind of “kingdom living” is exactly what God would like us to envision through the power of His Spirit working in us.

READ – James chapter 3. Read the 18 verses. Try reading them in a couple different translations.

This chapter has 2 themes. Give a title to each of them and summarize them.

Section 1 – James 3: 1 – 12

Section 2 – James 3: 13 - 18

REFLECT

1. Make a list of the various ways that James describes the power of your speech? What stands out to you?
2. How would Galatians 5: 22 – 23 relate to James’ concerns for these believers and to you?
3. Can you explain the contrast between wisdom with jealousy and selfishness in your own words – James 3: 13 – 16?
4. Compare and contrast the words of Paul in Philippians 4: 8 – 9 with James 3: 17 – 18.

RESPOND – As you look back at Chapter 3, are there any ideas that seem to “leap off the page”? If not, read it again more slowly, stopping to focus on one of the word pictures or ideas that the Holy Spirit might be impressing on your mind and heart.

Jesus said, “Whatever is in your heart determines what you say” (Matthew 12: 34).

Is it time to count on His forgiveness and His promises to you? Ask Him – 1 John 1: 9 and James 1: 5 and Galatians 5: 23. He will be faithful to you always.