



**METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY**  
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES  
For the week of November 15 – 21, 2014  
Lesson #8: **The Book of James, Lesson 8**

## **James 3:13-4:10 – The Humility of Heavenly Wisdom**

### **Verse 13**

“the....meekness of wisdom”

The man with true wisdom is not simply a man with facts and figures. His good “conversation” or good manner of living is made manifest in his words and deeds.

“Meekness of wisdom” is humility in action. We do not use information to show any superiority, but rather we use it to benefit others and to glorify God in all that we say and do.

### **Verse 14**

“lie not against the truth”

Even if we preach and teach the truth, the bitter strife and envy among us shows that we have not been converted by the truth. So how can a church be content when there are divisions due to self-centeredness and jealousy? The solution would be to receive the “meekness of wisdom” that is found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Verse 15**

“This wisdom...is earthly, sensual, devilish”

There are two kinds of wisdom. There is a wisdom that comes from above, where by we direct others to the Author of love and truth. And there is that earthly wisdom that focuses on self and the things of this fallen world. You might say that those who are content with an earthly wisdom already have their reward.

Daniel was given wisdom from above and took no credit for himself, but turned his hearers to the God of heaven and earth. He looked not for his reward in this world, but in the world to come. So it is with those who have wisdom from above.

Earthly wisdom is devilish because it was born of the devil himself. In heaven Lucifer became envious of Jesus and caused strife among the angels. His self-centeredness caused the war in heaven. He who was created perfect became imperfect by choosing to exalt self. By casting away the “meekness of wisdom” he defiled his mind and became Satan, the adversary.

### **Verse 16**

“there is confusion”

Anywhere that you find self-centeredness you will find confusion and division. Jealousy between siblings brings disorder, as well as jealousy between husband and wife. In the church itself, strife and envy bear the fruits of evil surmising and gossip. If all possessed the heavenly gift of “meekness of wisdom” there would be peace and harmony in the home and church.



### Verse 17

“is first pure”

True heaven-sent wisdom is first of all pure. It is the perfect blend of truth and pure motive. Such a pure wisdom will never be afraid or ashamed to present the truth tactfully and in love. Pure wisdom is not afraid of being tried and tested. It is not afraid of rejection. It seeks peace but without compromise. It is gentle by accepting people where they are without excusing sin and error. This wisdom is easy to be entreated by being winsome and approachable, we might even say, safe. People will feel comfortable sharing their thoughts with us even if we disagree. True wisdom is merciful and full of good fruits. We will serve our fellowman without partiality as Jesus died for all. And we shall do so without hypocrisy, whereby our deeds match our words.

### Verse 18

“fruit of righteousness”

Those who sow strife will reap the results of strife. Those who bear the fruits of righteousness are truly the peacemakers that show that they are the children of God. Those who reject the truth are truly the enemies of peace. Truth unites. Error divides. As the children of God we are to live peaceable with all men, without compromise.

### Chapter Four, Verse 1

“From whence come wars...?”

Untamed tongues, a contentious spirit, and envy are truly the cause of wars and fightings among God’s people.

### Verse 2

“yet ye have not”

Does God want us to be happy? Yes. Can we obtain this happiness through self-centeredness? No. Can we obtain this happiness by being contentious and envious? No. Can we obtain this happiness through prayer? Yes. Many try to obtain happiness by gaining positions and possessions. But true happiness first comes from above. If it comes from above then we must receive it. But to have more of it, we must share it. This is the great law of life, we are to receive that we might give.

### Verse 3

“ye ask amiss”

If I pray for wisdom, will I receive it? It depends on the motive for receiving it. If I desire wisdom to draw attention to myself, then I am asking amiss and will not receive. However, if I pray for wisdom to serve my fellowman, then I shall receive. We must not only pray for the right thing, we must do so with the right motive.



## Sabbath School Lesson Notes – Nov 22, 2014

### Verse 4

“enmity with God?”

If we chose to speak with an untamed tongue, if we continue to feed envy and jealousy, then we show that we belong to the world and not to Christ. If we chose to act like the world and revolve our life around the things of this world then we are working against God. James is speaking to church members, as he says, “know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?” In other words, those hearing this word should know better.

### Verse 5

“saith in vain...?”

None of the words or promises of God are empty; they stand fast forever. God’s love for man is pure and everlasting. Though man may lust after the world, God has a caring jealousy for us. The Spirit yearns to draw us closer and closer to our heavenly Father.

### Verse 6

“more grace”

We can never exhaust the grace of God, there is always more. God will bestow His grace upon the humble, but the proud are without. The proud even look down upon the very ones who are the recipients of God’s grace.

### Verse 7

“Resist the devil”

If we would find victory over jealousy and an untamed tongue, then we must submit ourselves to God as the first work in the morning. Secondly, we must resist or take our stand against the devil. We must be willing to engage in this battle against our sinful nature and the instigator of sin. If we do, he shall flee from us because the Spirit is in us.

### Verse 8

“draw nigh to God”

While God is near us and we have an abiding angel, we are to draw nigh to God. We are to open our heart to God and ask Him to cleanse it. We are to give our mind to God and ask Him to ennoble it. We are to dedicate our talents to God and ask Him to anoint them for service. All of who we are and all of what we have are to be surrendered to God. In this way, we are drawing nigh unto God. But if we chose to act independent of God we will be overcome by the devil.

### Verse 9

“Be afflicted”

Allow the gift of godly sorrow to do her perfect work. May we be truly repentant of our evil deeds that we may choose to give them to Jesus, the Sin-bearer. It is His glory to take them and to forgive us. Then a sweet peace and joy will fill the soul. In this new heart of peace, laughter, and joy there is no more hatred, envy, and strife.



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### Verse 10

“humble yourselves”

While we cannot make ourselves meek, we can receive the humility of Jesus. If we ask for it, we shall receive it. Therefore, let us each day receive both the humility of Jesus and the faith of Jesus that we may be men and women who possess the “meekness of wisdom.”

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Metro New York Sabbath School Notes prepared by Pastor Jeff Wehr