

Leadership Matters

Godly leadership is reflected by good conduct!

Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.

- Let's begin with our own observations. What is one thing that stood out to you from the message that you would share with the group? Was there a moment where God spoke to you personally through His Word?

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

- James suggested that a person's conduct would tell on them, revealing the true motivations of their mind and hearts. Godly leaders would be knowledgeable of the Bible, yielded to do what the Bible says, in step with the Holy Spirit, and mature in their walk with God. What did James say are the qualities of worldly leaders, and what diligence would James have for us as we raise up new leaders in the church?
- James wrote that worldly leaders often twist the truth and cover their real motivations. They're often people of bitter envy, self seeking hearts, and hypocrisy. How is the ascent of a worldly leader akin to American politics in an election year and how do political campaign ads bring to the forefront how some people view leadership in the church? Who did James say influenced this kind of leadership ascent in a church? (Hint: V.15)
- What did James say would be the unfortunate result of worldly leaders running the church? In your own experience, have you encountered the kinds of confusion and disorder that worldly leadership brings to a Fellowship?
- According to verses 17-18, what blessings are there for a Fellowship when Godly leaders lead? Bearing all of what James wrote to the churches, how important is the issue of leadership in the Fellowship?

Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:

- 1 Peter 5:6
- Jeremiah 9:23-24
- Psalm 1
- 1 Timothy 5:17-25

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

Focal Text: James 3:13-18

- Both godly and worldly leaders have the choice of which one they will become. While godly leaders invest in their walk with God over time, worldly leaders invest in earthly and demonic tactics. Which kind of leader would you like to become, and what would you need to do to secure the kind of qualities that would make you one?
- Although James writes specifically to those who were aspiring to positions of teaching or influence in the church, the things that we've learned about leadership are true in many contexts. How might these principles impact other areas of life leadership...like the home, work, or in our community?