

Wisdom in Working Clothes

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Welcome, those joining us online and outside in courtyard.
- B. Slide2 Griefshare 1 day event THIS Sunday at 2pm. The season of grief is a difficult one and we would like to *walk alongside you* during this time. Register on our APP or website.
- C. Slide3 We are hosting another Blood Drive with LifeStream, on Sunday Feb 28. We had so many donors when we hosted in September, they asked us to do it again. Pick your appointment time on our APP.
- D. Slide4 Ministry opportunity: We'd love to help get you connected/serving at CM. A great place to start is *our Welcome Team*. Fill out ministry application on APP or website to get started.
- E. Prayer: Lord show us Yourself in your Word. Then show us our sin. Then, our Savior

II. Slide5 Intro: Wisdom in Working Clothes

- A. *When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me, Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.*
 1. McCartney said he had the idea of "Let It Be" after he had a dream about his mother during the tense period surrounding the sessions for The Beatles in 1968. **Mary Patricia McCartney** died of cancer in 1956, when he was 14. He said about the dream that his mother had told him, **"It will be all right, just let it be."**
 2. **Where** do you get your wisdom in times of trouble? and **what type** of wisdom is it?
- B. So far, James has asked us, Are you religious? Do you have faith? And now, Are you wise? [*true religion* ministers to vulnerable people. *Faith* is shown by its works. A *wise* person shows their wisdom *in the way they live*]

1. **Wisdom?** James takes it out of the *philosophical/abstract realm*, or even the *realm of intelligence*. And says the wise person takes it down to the street level, it's *Wisdom in Working Clothes!*

2. If you say you have **religion**, *show me*. If you say you have **faith**, *show me*. If you say you have **wisdom**, *show me*.

C. Although Solomon was an intelligent well-educated king (author, poet, songwriter, artist, king, diplomat, theologian, teacher, zoologist, psychologist, philosopher, financier, engineer, & architect), **yet** he recognized that *he lacked the wisdom which only God could provide*. So he asked for 2 things: **wisdom & knowledge**.

1. A 1000 years later **James** is writing on this same subject. He counseled his listeners, follow Solomon's lead...**Ask for it!** (1:5)

D. You will note the *similarities* between this section & the Beatitudes & the Fruit of the Spirit & simply being more like Jesus.

III. Slide6a **DIVINE WISDOM. GENUINE (13) READ**

A. Slide6b **2 specific tests** to see if someone is wise:

1. **Good Conduct/moral** - manner of acting or controlling yourself.

a) A wise person is someone whose life is **changing** in accordance with the truth of God's word.

2. **Show his works in the meekness of wisdom/gentleness**. Acting in a manner that is *gentle, mild, & even tempered*.

a) In James day it meant, *bringing a high-spirited horse under control. The spirit & strength of the horse weren't lost, simply harnessed*.

b) Gentleness also referred to **a brilliant teacher** who could **debate others** w/o getting angry (**needed today**). It also referred to **a soothing medicine** that brought comfort to a painful wound.

3. **Wisdom** so far then **doesn't** mean a high I.Q., or your ability to pack away facts, or your impressive eloquence.

- a) The test of wisdom is *a life* that is patterned after the truth & is under control.¹

IV. Slide7 HUMAN WISDOM. COUNTERFEIT (14a)

A. As is true of all valuable possessions, wisdom has its *counterfeits*.

B. 2 specific tests to see if someone is **unwise**: bitter jealousy & self-ambition.

C. Slide8 Note: In your heart - 2 motives *deeply embedded* in the unwise heart.

1. Ken Sande (The PeaceMaker/resolving conflict) said, “*Inflicting pain on others is one of the surest signs that an idol is ruling our hearts.*”

a) See, James is not just saying, *to say NO to these sinful or inordinate desires, but to replace them with godly desires.*

b) Don't just say **no** to *Sin* but **yes** to **Jesus**. replacing sinful cravings with Joli cravings. [*sinful cravings* lead to *sin and conflict*. *Holy cravings* lead to *love and worship*]

2. Slide9 Jealousy - a greedy or prideful longing for something that belongs to another; even something *intangible*, such as a skill.

a) They have perfect kids, you don't. He made the basketball team, I didn't. Their church is growing, mine isn't. She's making money *hand over fist*, I'm not. It's when someone looks better than you, has a better body than you and worse yet, they eat whatever they want and don't even work out (& u cry out, *how long the Lord*, such injustice. I'm drinking *kale smoothies* and they're eating *fully loaded 5 guys bacon cheeseburgers*)

b) How to get over jealousy? Take it somewhere. *Do you care more for Jesus' glory than your own?* You have to believe **Jesus is better**.

He's better than **marriage**, then **trouble free kids**, then **sports glory**, then **money**, then **success**, then **physical beauty**.

(1) **Jesus** must be **1st** in our affections ... the **center** of our affections.

(2) Do this, and you can *even enjoy the success of others*.

3. *Sitting right next to Jealousy on the bus is self-ambition.*

¹ Charles Swindoll; James.

4. **Self-ambition** - a party spirit. the desire to be seen, quoted, & respected.
 a) Have a holy ambition instead.

V. Slide10a **CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE WISDOM (14b-15)**

A. So if these things are *deep inside your heart*, *root em out*, don't just pretend they're not there. [*don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. nlt*]

1. **Do not boast/arrogant** - The 1st ugly face of false wisdom is *arrogance*.
2. **Do not ... be false to the truth** - How do we as Christians justify our **arrogance**? By lying against the truth, or dodging it, or trying to ignore it.
 - a) **The result self-deception.** *It's like if you built something & your measurements were off. But instead of admitting the mistake, you design a **new ruler** to fit the inaccurate measurements. Then the whole thing ends up a crooked disaster.*

B. Slide10b The World - the Flesh - the Devil

1. **Earthly** - false wisdom has an **earthly origin**. It views everything from a strictly horizontal perspective: *earthly success, earthly standards, earthly motives, earthly attitudes, earthly methods, earthly everything*.
2. **Unspiritual/natural** - fleshly, not related to the Spirit of God. A wisdom whose vision is limited to things *temporal, not eternal*.
3. **Demonic** - the mindset is characteristic of demons.
 - a) Demons are *brilliant* by the way. They know a great deal, even about God. **But** there is *no change, no obedience, & no yielding of self* to God.

VI. Slide11a **RESULTS OF FALSE WISDOM (16)**

A. The **roots** of false wisdom (already mentioned in vs.14) leads to the **fruit** here.

1. **Disorder/upheaval** - the absence of unity & stability.
2. **Every vile practice** [catch all drawer] - when human wisdom is taught it *lifts the lid* on all sorts of *worthless, petty, evil things*.
 - a) Slide11b Like *Pandora's Box* the human heart is home to a haunting array of sinful thoughts. Pandora was according to Greek mythology the 1st woman on

earth. She was given a jar/box that she was ordered **not to open** under any circumstances. Despite this warning, overcome by **curiosity** Pandora *opened the jar*. Upon doing so, the **evils** contained within escaped into the world. Scared, Pandora immediately closed the jar, **only to trap Hope inside**, as was Zeus' will.

VII.Slide12a CHARACTERISTICS OF DIVINE WISDOM (17)

- A. When the **seeds** of **good conduct** & **works done in meekness** are sown, they produce an unnatural, even supernatural **bumper crop**.
- B. Check out **7 fruits** of divine wisdom on display: *Fruit Inspection time*.
Like the fruit of the Spirit, there are 3 groups here:
- C. Group#1
1. **Pure** - *first pure* (not just 1st in a list, **but 1st in importance!**)
 - a) The primary fruit of divine wisdom is **purity**. Which means *freedom from defilement, w/o contamination, clean*.
 - b) Not only **moral** cleanliness, **but** also purity of **motive**.
 - c) Jesus said, **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God**.
 - (1) He meant, the pure in heart will *so intimately know God* that they will **see Him** come to their rescue when tempted, **or see Him** come alongside as their closet friend when facing trials.
 2. **Peaceable** - when *wisdom from above* fills our hearts, a peaceable nature blossoms, one that helps *heal relationships rather than tear them apart*.
 - a) Some will say, *I'm not by nature a calm & peaceable person*. That's the point! None of us are by nature. We are like an arid desert, *that when God's wisdom rains gently upon our hearts*, a *peaceable attitude* springs to life.
 3. **Gentle** - *Tolerant* would be a good word here. *Always remember that there are greater things in the world than rules and regulations*.
 4. A wise person then ... is 1st pure, peaceable, & gentle.
- D. Slide12b Group#2

1. **Open to reason** - persuadable, *willing and open to adopting another position, belief, or course of action* (with sufficient reason or evidence).
 - a) Abraham showed this with Lot - Abraham took the initiative to create a compromise, *the land can't sustain us both, you choose, I'll take the other.*
(1) **Now** that's *reasonable*, shows Abraham was *persuadable*.
 - b) Does this describe you? Can you give a serious thought to an opinion that differs from yours w/o feeling threatened or getting angry? [hard in our day & age]
2. **Full of mercy & good fruits** - **wisdom from above** helps us show *mercy* which is a compassionate attitude & *good fruits* which are actions that naturally flow from mercy.
 - a) **Often Mercy** was used to be shown toward someone who had *suffered unjustly*, **but in the NT** it often is used to describe an attitude towards those who *suffer due to problems they have caused themselves*. (so even if you think someone who is *homeless, or in prison, or down & out* brought this on themselves ... *so what!* be full of *mercy*) [AL's *Neighbors in Need* Class]
3. **A wise person then ... is someone like Barnabus** (voted most huggable in HS) who is always *open to reason* and that has a *good attitude and actions* that flow from *Mercy*.

E. Slide12c Group#3

1. **Impartial/unwavering**(CSB) - have fixed principles. *Be real. Be who you are.*
2. **Sincere/unhypocritical** - from the Greek theaters, those who played multiple roles by just *switching masks* for each character.
3. **A wise person then ... is unwavering & un hypocritical.**

F. **We are finished w/our fruit inspection.** We move to the **results**.

VIII.Slide13a **RESULTS OF DIVINE WISDOM (18)**

- A. In James *peace* means *being rightly related to one another* (not *vertical* peace w/ God, **but horizontal** peace between human beings)
 1. **Righteousness** flourishes in the context of Shalom/*peace*.

2. (Beatitudes) *Blessed are/go be peacemakers/go maintain peace, for they shall be called sons of God.*

B. Slide13b If you missed everything, *Wisdom is proved right by her actions.*

1. msg - *Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here's what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly.*

It's the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts. (13)

2. That's *Wisdom in Working Clothes!*

C. Keywords: wisdom, divine wisdom, counterfeit wisdom, false wisdom, jealousy, self-ambition, Pandora's Box, pure, peace.