

James

Temptations, Trials

&

Triumph

Outline of the Book:

- Trials and Truth 1:2-27
- Problems and Faith 2:1-26
- Words and Wisdom 3:1-18
 - Misuse of the Tongue... 3:1-12
 - **Misuse of Wisdom... 3:13-18**
- Conflicts and Submission 4:1-5:6
- Overcoming 5:7-20

Tongue issues – review (1-12)

- Test of perfect man (husband) (2)
- Small sparks create large fires!
- Bits in Horses; Rudders in Ships...
- Tongue is a restless evil full of deadly poison (8)
- Curse and Bless from the same source???
- Not water, not fruit... why us???
- These things should not be...
- Especially in those who claim to know...

Dealing with Wisdom

- Again, the focus here is on the mature sheep
 - *sophos* – expert, skilled
 - *epistemon (1x)* - endowed w/knowledge, experienced; scientific knowledge.
 - 2 together give a sense of superiority – Dt 1:13-15
- The temptation here is pride/arrogance
 - 1Co 1:17-22; 3:19; 6:5ff
 - Having knowledge is never enough... $2+2=4$ – so??
 - Mental assent; commitment to; _____
 - James agrees...

Qualities of the trully wise

- Let him show (*deiknuo* – strong emphatic)
 - Good conduct (*anastrophe*) manner of life, behavior, deportment – actions speak **louder** than words –
 - Meekness – *prautes*, gentle spirit of the listener (see 1:21)
 - Mt 11:29; 5:5; Ze 9:9 – these are for us still...
 - Why do we think that this is for other people?
 - Why do we think this is not for us today?

Meekness

Meekness toward God is that disposition of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting. In the OT, the meek are those wholly relying on God rather than their own strength to defend them against injustice. Thus, meekness toward evil people means knowing God is permitting the injuries they inflict, that He is using them to purify His people, and that He will deliver His people in His time. (Isa 41:17, Lu 18:1-8)

Gentleness or meekness is the opposite to self-assertiveness and self-interest. It stems from trust in God's goodness and control over the situation. The gentle person is not occupied with self at all. This is a work of the Holy Spirit, not of the human will. (Ga 5:23)

False wisdom exposed

- Bitter jealousy – harsh indignant (Ac 5:17)
 - Position, fame, following, prestige
- Strife – see Ph 2:3,4
 - *eritheia*- electioneering or intriguing for office, desiring to be put forward...disdaining others
- James warns that this is arrogance!
- And lies against the truth...!
 - People who are servants do not act this way!!
 - Maybe someone should tell some people??
 - This has been the disgrace of many churches...

False wisdom identified (15,16)

- Contrasting the real:
 - Earthly – based on terrestrial motives
 - Natural – sensual, animal nature (*psuchikos*)
 - Demonic – *daimoniodes* (1x) demon-like
 - Disorder – *akatastasia*, instability, disturbance
 - Evil things – *phaulos*, bad, base, wicked
- Do we know the real from the false? Ro 1:22
- These are not hard to see...

True wisdom identified (17,18)

- Now for the real:
 - From above (15) see 1:5,17 – from God
 - Pure – *hagnos*, chaste, pure, clear
 - Peaceable – *eirenikos* (2x He 12:11) Mt 5:9; Ro 12:18
 - Gentle – *epieikes*, patient, fair, mild, no English is good
 - Reasonable *eupeithes*, easy to be entreated, compliant
 - Mercy-full – *mestos eleos*, good will, help (2:13,16)
 - Good fruits – Mt 7:17, Ga 5:22... good stuff!!!(vs 12)
 - Unwavering *adiakritos* w/o ambiguity, doubt
 - No hypocrisy – *anupokritos* sincere, unfeigned Ro 12:9