

1. Opening Prayer
2. Intro: Wisdom

Questions.

What is wisdom?

Who do you say is wise?

- a. In the Old Testament (Job, Psalm, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon)

Purpose: 1) to teach about the way of finding out the meaning of life. (Prov. 1:1-3)

2) to teach about the moral law of God. (Prov. 3:4-7, Psalm 19:7-10)

Characteristics: Poetry, rhetorical question (Prov. 1:22, Ecc. 1:3),

vocative (Prov. 1:8, Song of Solomon 2:7-8)

exclamation (Prov. 3:13, 28:19),

antithesis & parallel (Prov. 10:1, 14:1-35, 24:16)

- b. In the New Testament (Sermon on the Mount, 1 Corinthians 1-4, and James)

Questions.

Read Matt. 5:1-10, 1 Cor. 1:17-31, and James 1. What kind of wisdom can you see in each part?

How similar and different are they from the wisdom in the Old Testament?

- c. Wisdom in James (54 imperatives out of 108 verses)

How to be wise? James 1:5

How to know if I have become wise? We can tell by our **words, works, and wealth**.

Inevitable obstacles: **trials** (James 1:2). We should overcome by perseverance (1:4).

Question.

Can you find anyone in the bible who overcame trials by perseverance?

What kind of trials do we have in these days? And how shall we overcome them?

3. Read James 3:1-10

a. Structure

Teachers to be judged more strictly (v. 1)

No fault in words: perfection (v. 2)

Horses and ships are controllable (vv. 3-4)

A fiery tongue will corrupt the whole person (vv. 5-6)

Animals can be tamed (v. 7)

Tongue cannot be tamed (v. 8)

This is why teachers will be judged more strictly (vv. 9-10)

b. Questions

Imagine why James talks about teachers in the beginning of this chapter.

Do you also agree that the human tongue is not tamable? Why or why not?

4. Read James 3:1-18

a. Structure

Two different waters have two different origins (vv. 11-12)

Two different wisdoms have two different origins (vv. 13-15)

Two different wisdoms produce different fruits (vv. 16-18)

b. Questions

There are two questions in this paragraph. What are they? And what do they mean?

How can we show good deeds in humility without selfish ambition or boasting?

Why do you think James mentions peacemakers in the last verse?

5. Closing Prayer