

“Show Me God’s Wisdom” – Part 2

VII. Show Me God’s Wisdom

A. The Question (13a) – “Who among you is wise and understanding?”

B. The Command (13b) – “Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.”

1. **What? “Let him show”; “Start showing”** - Mk. 14:15; Acts 7:3; Lk. 24:40; Jn. 20:20; Heb. 8:5; Mt. 8:4; 1 Cor. 12:31b; Acts 10:28; Mk. 16:21; Lk. 9:22; Jn. 14:8ff; James 2:18; Is. 60:6; 2 Cor. 8:24

2. **How?**

a. **Deeds** – Mt. 5:16; Mk. 14:3-9

b. **Good behavior**

Principle: This wisdom will be seen in a _____ way.

• **By = out from; out of; after**

• **Good = organically sound; beautiful in appearance; morally good; “ordered”**

• **Behavior** – Eph. 4:22; 1 Pet. 1:18; 2 Pet. 2:7, 18; 1 Pet. 2:12; 3:1-2, 16

c. **Gentleness of wisdom** – Num. 12:3; Mt. 5:5; 11:28-30; 21:5; 2 Cor. 10:1

Principle: This wisdom will be seen in a _____ way.

• **Where does gentleness come from?** Gal. 5:16-23

• **Who is supposed to have it?**

○ Gal. 5:22-23 –

○ Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12 –

○ 1 Tim. 6:11 –

○ 1 Pet. 3:4 –

○ Gal. 6:1; 1 Cor. 4:21 –

○ 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 3:2; 1 Pet. 3:15 –

• **The Bible describes the gentleness of wisdom both in our relationship to God and in our relationship to people.**

○ **Toward God =**

○ **Toward people =**

“The truly wise person is so convinced of God’s sovereign control over all things that they never feel they need to manipulate a situation or resort to fleshly methods to get their way.”

So what?

1. **Are you wise and understanding according to God’s definition?**

2. **Is your wisdom consistent in the general pattern of your life?**

3. **Are you specifically characterized by being gentle?**

Discussion & Application:

1. Take a moment to reflect on the message you heard. Spend some time in prayer asking God if you are a “wise and understanding” person in His sight. Be honest with yourself and with God about areas where you are skillfully applying His truth and areas where you are not. Sincerely ask Him to cause you to grow in wisdom and understanding in every area of your life for His glory.
2. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being Christlike), how would you rate your growth in wisdom over the past 6 months? If you have not been growing in wisdom, why not? What specific disciplines do you need to instill this week to become a truly wise and understanding follower of Jesus Christ? What is your plan to do this?
3. James commands his readers to START putting God’s wisdom on display. What are some specific ways that God’s wisdom is currently on display in your life?
 - At home (family, finances...)
 - In your neighborhood (testimony to neighbors)
 - At work (job performance, standards, relationships)
 - At church (giving, service, one anothers)
 - On the road
4. What are some specific good deeds you could do in each of the 5 areas listed in the last question that would put God’s wisdom on display?
5. In general, how well ordered is your behavior? Is it consistently godly in each of the 5 areas listed in question #3? If not, what truth from God’s Word do you need to skillfully apply in those specific situations? Looking back over the past year, has your general behavior been increasing in godliness?
6. What comes to your mind when you hear the words “gentle” or “meek”? Why do some people think of those terms in a negative way? What does it mean to be gentle? Why is this quality specifically important when it comes to putting God’s wisdom on display?
7. What should gentleness look like in our relationship to God? What attribute(s) of God must we be fully convinced of in order to live that way?
8. What should gentleness look like in our relationship to people? How does our relationship with God impact our ability to be gentle with people?
9. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being Christlike), how gentle are you? Is this a consistent quality of your life in all of your relationships? If not, what foolish thoughts are you entertaining that allow you to be something other than gentle in your relationships? [Example: you are gentle at work with employees and customers but not at home with family. Why do you think it’s okay to be anything but gentle at home?]
10. Take a moment to pray and ask the Lord to help you grow in these areas. Confess areas of foolishness (sinfulness) and commit to skillfully applying His truth to specific areas of life so that you might grow in wisdom and understanding. Find some specific Scriptures to memorize and meditate upon to help. Ask someone to hold you accountable to carry through with your plan for growth in wisdom.
11. If you haven’t already done so, memorize James 3:13-18. Recite it in the morning and at lunchtime. In the evening, go back over James 1:1-3:18 so you don’t forget what you have already memorized. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom from His Word and to make you a doer of what you have learned. Encourage others to join you in memorizing Scripture.

Show Me God's Wisdom!

James 3:13–18 (NASB95) – ¹³ Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and *so* lie against the truth.

¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown
in peace by those who make peace.

A. The Question (13)

¹³ Who among you is wise and understanding?

Wisdom = skillful application of God's truth
to every area of life

B. The **Command** (13b)

“**Let him show** by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.”

1. What?

“Let him show”

Show: point to something; draw attention to it
Exhibit something;
Verbally teach, explain or demonstrate

Show: to reveal or disclose

To prove or provide evidence of something

Isaiah 60:6
2 Corinthians 8:24

1. How?

a. Deeds

“Let him show by his good behavior **HIS DEEDS** in
the gentleness of wisdom.”

Matthew 5:16 (NASB95) – “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your **good works**, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Mark 14:3-9

Curtis Vaughan,

“The true test of wisdom is **works**, not words.”

a. Deeds

b. Good Behavior

Let him show BY his **GOOD BEHAVIOR** his deeds in
the gentleness of wisdom

Principle:

This wisdom will be seen in a **general** way.

By
Good
Behavior

1 Peter 2:12; 3:1-2, 16

The truly wise and understanding follower of Jesus Christ is **CHARACTERIZED BY** living both **INTERNALLY** and **EXTERNALLY** in obedience to the Lordship of Christ and His inspired Word.

Spiritual Measles?

- a. Deeds
- b. Good Behavior
- c. **Gentleness of Wisdom**

Principle:

This wisdom will be seen in a **specific** way.

“Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the
GENTLENESS of wisdom.”

Mt. 5:5 – “Blessed are the **gentle**, for they shall inherit the earth.”

"Gentle" in extra-biblical literature

Swindoll: ...gentleness includes such enviable qualities as having strength under control, being calm and peaceful when surrounded by a heated atmosphere,

emitting a soothing effect on those who may be
angry or otherwise beside themselves, and
possessing tact and gracious courtesy that causes

others to retain their self-esteem and dignity. Being gentle means having strength under control, being calm in a heated atmosphere, and possessing tact.

Gentle = humility; meekness
acting in a manner that is gentle, mild, and even-tempered.

active attitude of deliberate acceptance,
not a passive submission.

Strength under control.

Number 12:3; Mt. 11:28-30; 21:5; 2 Cor. 10:1

Where does gentleness come from?
Gal. 5:16-23

Who is supposed to have it?

Spirit-filled believers (Gal. 5:22-23)

All true believers who preserve unity in the church
(Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12)

Godly men (1 Tim. 6:11)
Godly women / wives (1 Pet. 3:4)

All who want to help struggling believers
(Gal. 6:1; 1 Cor. 4:21)

All who want to reach lost people with the gospel
(2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 3:2; 1 Pet. 3:15)

The Bible describes the **gentleness** of wisdom both
in **our relationship to God** and
in **our relationship to people.**

Toward God: “a quality rooted in such a conviction about the overruling sovereignty of a wise and loving God that it accepts his dealings and dispositions without resistance.”

Toward people: “a quality that accepts without retaliation the insults and injuries caused by one’s fellow men, recognizing that these, too, are under God’s providential control.”

Jesus Christ!

2 Cor. 10:1; 1 Pet. 2:21-23

The truly wise person is so convinced of God's sovereign control over all things that they never feel they need to manipulate a situation or resort to fleshly methods to get their way.

'To believe actively that our heavenly Father constantly spreads around us the providential circumstances that work for our present good and

our everlasting well-being, brings to the soul a veritable benediction. Most of us go through life praying a little, planning a little, jockeying for

position, hoping but never being quite certain of anything, and always secretly afraid that we will miss the way. This is a tragic waste of truth and never

gives rest to the heart. There is a better way. It is to repudiate our own wisdom and take instead the infinite wisdom of God. Our insistence on seeing

ahead is natural enough, but it is a real hindrance to our spiritual progress. God has charged himself with full responsibility for our eternal happiness and

stands ready to take over the management of our lives the moment we turn in faith to him.'

A.W. Tozer – "Knowledge of the Holy"

So What?

1. Are you wise and understanding according to God's definition?

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