

07 Sep 2025

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LADIES' PRAYER FELLOWSHIP: Today, 10:15am, in Church @ Annexe, L3

Topic: The Samaritan Woman—Finding the Water of Life

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Today, 10:30am over Zoom / in Church @ 160CR, Room 2A

Topic: Job 42—Is Faith Always Worthwhile

BAPTISM INSTRUCTION CLASSES: Today, 10:30am @ Annexe, L201

The first class "What We Believe" starts today. Please attend if you feel led to find out more.

SENIOR CITIZENS' MINISTRY: Thursday, 11 Sep, 10am in Church @ Main Hall

Exercise: 9am before meeting in Church @ 160CR

Activity: Exercises for Seniors

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED: Seven Saturdays, from 27 Sep, 4pm to 5:30pm @ Annexe, L4

Boldly invite your family and friends who do not know Jesus to come and find out more about him and what he has done for them.

SUNDAY PRAYER WITH ELDERS

Two elders will be available after the morning service to pray with anyone who seeks personal prayer support. This morning, Elders Chia Eng Chuan and Dr Jonathan Choo will be present to spend time with you in private prayers.



**BETHESDA
(KATONG)
CHURCH**

WORSHIP

through giving

Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops. Proverbs 3:9

VIA PAYNOW

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UOB A/C No: 388-314-965-1

CHEQUE

Crossed cheque payable to:
Bethesda (Katong) Church

PURPOSE

For all giving, please specify purpose as follows:

- General Fund (GF);
- Missionary Fund (MF);
- Disaster Relief Fund (DRF)

THANK YOU

...for God loves a cheerful giver.
(2 Corinthians 9:7b)

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Two Kinds of Wisdom

James talks about wisdom in this passage. We often hear people say, “that person is so smart and brilliant” or “that person is so successful”. However, when was the last time you hear of someone who was lauded for just being wise? In verse 13, James says, *“Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.”* In 1 Kings, Solomon sought after wisdom when he became king. He did not ask God for riches; he asked God for wisdom. If we put ourselves in Solomon’s shoes, would we have done the same?

Knowledge can exist without wisdom, but not the other way around. Wisdom is reflected in our conduct and actions; it is not how much head knowledge we have, but how we apply this knowledge with sensitivity. James is saying that our wisdom is exhibited in the things that we do—by our general behaviour and also by our meekness. People like to tweet or post on social media bite-sized quotes about wisdom. Whatever is the intention behind such actions, we will do well to remember that the godly wisdom which James describes is to also embody Christ’s humility. The Bible says *“but if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.”* (v14-15)

James listed two kinds of wisdom—earthly wisdom and godly wisdom. A litmus test for earthly wisdom is the presence of jealousy or selfish ambition. How often do we see this in our churches, our ministries, even our own hearts? When comparison creeps in, when we jockey for influence, when we mask insecurity with pride—we are not walking in the wisdom of heaven, but in the ways of the world. The fruit of such false wisdom is chaos. It tears down rather than builds up. It divides rather than unites.

On the other hand, the wise person is the one who gives God the glory for any knowledge or gifts he or she has. Godly wisdom from above reflects God’s character. James describes godly wisdom as *“pure, then peace-loving, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, free of hypocrisy”* (v17). But there is more—this wisdom is *“full of mercy and good fruits”*. This is the kind of wisdom that heals communities, that listens before speaking, that yields without resentment, that acts with compassion and integrity. It is the kind of wisdom that reflects the heart of Christ. Having such godly wisdom sets us apart from the world.

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1. TODAY'S SPEAKER

Pray for Dr Justin Joon Lee (Singapore Bible College) who gives us today's ministry message **"True Wisdom Brings Peace" (James 3:13-18)**. Pray that we will have attentive hearts to this message given to us.

2. WISDOM FROM ABOVE

Dear Lord,

Grant us wisdom from above—pure, peace-loving, gentle, and full of mercy. Help us reject selfish ambition and embrace humility. May our lives bear good fruit, guided by sincerity and grace. Teach us to be peacemakers, sowing righteousness in harmony. Shape our hearts to reflect your divine truth. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

3. CHOIR & MUSIC MINISTRY

Pray the following for our choir and music ministry:

- * Pray for Mrs Choo-Ang Li Ming as she conducts the BKC choir this Christmas and also plans for a Christmas carolling outreach party in church on 13 Dec.
- * Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading in the choice of songs and in the development of a theme.
- * Pray for choir members to be available to sing at the Christmas service and carolling party.

Cont'd...from page 2

James closes the attributes of godly wisdom with *"impartial and free of hypocrisy"*. Authenticity and fairness are essential attributes of godly wisdom. He ends with this exhortation, *"And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."* (v18) James desires the church to reap a harvest of righteousness: lives aligned with God's will, communities marked by justice and joy. Let us be fruitful workers of the harvest.

THEME: GROWING IN THE KINGDOM

True Wisdom Brings Peace (James 3:13-18)
Dr Justin Joon Lee (Singapore Bible College)

Sermon Notes

VERSE FOR THE WEEK:

James 3:17 (NIV)

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Next Week's Sermon

Submit Yourselves to God
James 4:1-10

Dr Quek Tze-Ming
(Biblical Graduate School of Theology)