



## ***Shoe Leather Christianity***

### **A Study on the Book of James**

Lesson 3B | June 4, 2015 | James 3:13 – 18

#### **Lesson Overview**

This week's text is short enough to include, so it is provided below (NIV version). Verse 13 pretty much sums it up – wisdom is reflected in how we act. Those who are wise put their actions to work, fools do the opposite – *they do what they want, when they want, and how they want*.

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? **Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.** <sup>14</sup> But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. <sup>17</sup> **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.** <sup>18</sup> Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

I have been around both wise and unwise people as you probably have and stating the obvious – I prefer to be around wise people; especially considering leaders. When wise people are placed in positions of leadership and authority, things just seem to run better – people get along, harmony exists, the quality of life is better, and you feel like you are part of something bigger than yourself. I can't help but think that Jesus was the epitome of wisdom and was superb at bringing peace and harmony to situations that required His impact. As followers of Jesus, you and I have an amazing opportunity to impact the world when we choose to be **men of wisdom**. This requires that we make a commitment to Godly principles rooted in the spiritual disciplines of prayer and Bible study. The MBC Men's Group can help you with that endeavor and hold you accountable to become the man of wisdom God has called you to be!

#### **Series Overview**

**Success comes from training, not trying.** As we study the book of James, we will find a cause and effect relationship with regards to the choices we make in life. There is always a pattern associated with success or failure. The key is to determine areas in our life where we are weak and seek the Lord's guidance in making lasting changes, not the temporary changes often associated with today's "boot strap" self-help approaches.

Throughout this series we are going to focus on the following flowchart that represents the "progressive" phases of our Christian life; each phase of the Christian life is associated with the previous phase. **Environment** leads to beliefs; **beliefs** lead to thoughts; **thoughts** lead to actions; **actions** lead to habits; and **habits** lead to **lifestyles**. A phrase to help us remember this progression is **Every Boy Thinks About Hunting Lions**. Try and commit this flowchart to memory as it will be useful throughout the series.



**Figure 1: Progressive Phases of the Christian Life**

