

Book of James

a blueprint for faith in today's world

How Can I Recognize and Address Envy and Selfish Ambition in My Own Heart?

Read James 3:13-18

Listen to the Message 'How Can I Recognize and Address Envy and Selfish Ambition in My Own Heart?' (12th November 2023) at www.elim.family/media

The in this message Ps. Jim explores the destructive nature of envy and selfish ambition, drawing connections between these qualities and the conflicts and wars in the world. The Ps. Jim emphasizes the importance of examining one's own heart and motives, highlighting the negative consequences of boastfulness and lies that can result from envy and selfish ambition.

In this message we are encouraged to something different than the earthly wisdom spoken about in this Bible passage, but instead heavenly wisdom —one characterized by humility, peace, consideration, submissiveness, impartiality, and sincerity. This heavenly wisdom is not achievable through human strength alone but requires a surrender to God and a transformation that comes from Him. Ps Jim concludes with practical steps for the listeners: to stop striving and start seeking God, to confront areas of denial in their lives, and to allow God to impart heavenly wisdom through surrender.

Questions for reflection:

1. How do you see the themes of envy and selfish ambition playing out in your own life and the world around you?
2. Reflect on a time when envy or selfish ambition influenced your decisions or interactions. How might embracing heavenly wisdom have changed the outcome?
3. In what ways do you observe earthly wisdom prevailing in societal values and cultural attitudes, as mentioned in the sermon? How might a shift toward heavenly wisdom impact these dynamics?
4. Consider the practical steps suggested in the sermon—stopping striving, confronting denial, and surrendering to God. Which of these steps resonates with you, and how might you apply it to your life?

5. In your opinion, how can individuals, communities, or leaders promote heavenly wisdom in a world often driven by envy and selfish ambition?
6. The sermon suggests seeking God's wisdom through surrender rather than striving. How might you practically incorporate more seeking and surrender into your spiritual journey?
7. Consider the attributes of heavenly wisdom outlined in James 3:17-18—pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, impartial, and sincere. Which of these attributes do you find most challenging to embody, and why?

If you have never accepted Jesus as your personal saviour and you would like to move from the margins to having a relationship with Him. Please speak to one of the pastors or leadership team, we would love to pray with you. Alternatively, go to www.elim.family/ihavedecided to find out more about giving your life to Jesus.