

My Behavior Reveals the Condition of My Inner Life

James 3:16-4:6

Author: James, brother of Jesus, leader of Jerusalem church

Recipients: Messianic Jewish house churches outside Palestine

Genre: Wisdom literature—Messianic Jewish author—Jewish thinking

Overarching insight: My outward behavior reveals the condition of my inner life

Example 1: *For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.* James 3:16

- Envy and selfish ambition are invisible—conditions of the inner life.
- They produce visible effects: disorder, wickedness of every kind.

1983 developing leaders among missionaries

Example 2: *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.* James 3:17

- The wisdom from above is also invisible—a condition of inner life.
- It produces visible effects: purity, peace, gentleness, readiness to yield, mercy, good fruits, impartiality, transparency.

What is wisdom?

- Wisdom comes from God; hence its core component is love.
- Wisdom carries ability to apply God's truth to human life beneficially
- Wisdom is an outflow of human maturity

Example 3: *Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you?* James 4:1

- Cravings (passions) at war within—conditions of the inner life.
- They produce conflicts (quarrels) and disputes.

A critical component of “behavior” — speech.

- Crucial in families => how we speak to each other.
- A parish is a family
- Our process during this period of transition searching for a new Rector

The condition of my inner life is transformed in discipleship

- Living in Christ’s Presence — abiding — will change you
- Sunday morning, without discipleship, is not enough
- Living in Christ’s Presence ...
 - my sins are forgiven
 - my wounds are healed
 - the power of destructive behavior is broken
 - Christlikeness is formed within

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