

Sermon: Upside Down Wisdom and Words
Series: *Turning the World Upside Down*

Scripture: James 1:19-21; 3:1-18
Date: July 19, 2020

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?

- a) What does this passage teach you about the power of your words? Can you think of an example of words making something a reality in your life?
- b) How does this passage convict you? How does it encourage you?
- c) Our words flow from our wisdom (heart attitude). How does James contrast “Earthly wisdom” with “Heavenly wisdom?”

2) What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Re-read James 1:20 and 3:18. God’s desire is righteousness/justice. How can our words accomplish or prevent God’s justice?
- b) James 3:8 says that “no human” can control the tongue. But God can. How does the gospel of God allow us to control first our attitudes (wisdom) and then our words?

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) In what ways did Jesus exhibit the character traits of James 3:17-18?
- b) Read 1 Corinthians 1:30-2:5. Paul says he won’t know anything but Christ crucified. How can you adopt this same mindset?

APPLICATION

- a) Before responding first remember the gospel then respond. How can you make this a practice in your life?
- b) Think through these questions to ask yourself before responding: 1) Did I listen? 2) Is it true? 3) Is it gentle? 4) Does it lift others up? 5) Does it bring peace? 6) Does it point to Christ?

PRAYER

Praise God for his wisdom of grace that allows us to have the mind and words of Christ.
Confess ways that you have spoken or written hurtful words this week.
Ask God to give you the humility to know only the cross of Christ.