

## THREE WISE MEN

Text: James 3:13-18

INTRO: This sermon is titled “3 Wise Men.” No, it is not about the wise men who visited Jesus in His infancy. We have no way of knowing how many of those wise men there were.

And it’s not about 3 specific individuals, but about 3 things that those who are truly wise will seek to have in common.

And as our text indicates there are two very different kinds of wisdom – worldly wisdom which seeks to understand creation without acknowledging the Creator; seeks to understand natural law without honoring the Lawgiver, and seeks to explain the design of the universe while denying there was a Designer.

And then, there is true wisdom – spiritual wisdom.

One more explanation and we will get on with the lesson. In this lesson when we speak of wise men, we are using the word “men” without regard to gender, as in Gen. 1:27. My grandparents with a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade education had no trouble understanding this. Today’s highly educated, sophisticated readers seemingly need new gender-neutral “translations” in order to understand this same simple principle.

### I. THE FIRST WISE MAN: THE MAN WHO LISTENS TO THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS AND OBEYS THEM.

Matt 7:24-25, Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, & does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: & the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

Matt 24:45-46, Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

James 1:22-25, But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word & not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful

hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

II. THE SECOND WISE MAN. THE MAN WHO PRACTICES RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SEEKS TO WIN OTHERS TO CHRIST.

Prov 11:30, The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, & he who wins souls is wise.

1 Cor 9:19-23, For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; AND to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

1 Peter 3:1-2, Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

James 5:19-20, Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, & someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

III. THE THIRD WISE MAN: THE ONE WHO PREPARES FOR CHRIST'S COMING AND **STAYS** PREPARED.

Matt 25:1-13, Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to 10 virgins who took their lamps & went out to meet the bridegroom. Now 5 of them were wise, and 5 were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and

slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose & trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us & you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'" And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, & those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; & the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us!" But he answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Ezek 18:24, But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die.

Rev. 2:10

CONCLUSION: God wants each of us to be a wise man.

Eph 5:15-17, See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 5, 2003