

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

Wisdom helps us do the right things, at the right time and with the right mind. A story was about a couple living on the east coast. It was winter time and snow was common. They heard an announcement on the radio when they were having breakfast: “Five inches of snow is expected tonight. The city asked everyone to park their cars on the even-numbered side of the street so that the crew can shovel snow.” A similar message was sent out a week later before another snow storm: “Folks: please move your cars to the...” The broadcast was interrupted by static. The wife became anxious. She asked her husband: “Oh dear! What should I do?” The man replied calmly: “Honey, why don’t you just leave your car in the garage.” The lady needed more wisdom in her decision. What is wisdom? Before we define wisdom, let us consider a few related qualities. First, it is knowledge. We get knowledge by studying. Then there are skills. They are the abilities to do things. We build up skills by putting knowledge into practice. Examples are like cooking, driving and swimming. Thirdly, we can think of talents. They can be the gifts that you are born with. Some people are good at singing or math. You can learn new things faster if you have the right talents. Number four on the list is intelligence. Highly intelligent people think and respond quicker. Wisdom is different from knowledge, skills, talents and intelligence. It is the ability to discern what is true, right and lasting based on God’s standard, and to apply it in daily living. There are two key factors in this definition. First, the Bible is our guideline. We pursue the goals that God and not the world sees as important. Second, wisdom is not something to keep but something to use. In particular, we need wisdom when interacting with others. James talks about speech in the previous context. In chapter 4, he will teach us how to handle conflicts with wisdom. James contrasts two forms of wisdom in this passage. I call them devilish wisdom and divine wisdom. One is earthly and the other is heavenly. Let us do some initial comparisons between the two under three categories: attitude, action and aftermath. James describes devilish wisdom in verses 14-16. In terms of attitudes, those who have a devilish wisdom harbor bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in their hearts (v. 14 and 16). As for actions, devilish wisdom is expressed in boasting and falsehood (v. 14). The aftermaths will be disorder and vile practices (v. 16). Now let us look at divine wisdom. There is a long list of positive attitudes: pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, mercy, impartial and sincere (v. 17). With regard to actions, divine wisdom is showed in good conduct (v. 13), and sowing of peace (v. 18). All those godly qualities will end in aftermaths such as a harvest of peace and righteousness (v. 18).

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

## 1. 邪惡的智慧 Devilish Wisdom

Now we will look deeper into the two forms of wisdom. First, let us consider the source of devilish wisdom. James uses three words to describe its origin in verse 15. It is earthly,

which is in direct contrast to heavenly. It is also unspiritual, which is contrary to spiritual. Finally, it is demonic, meaning that it does not come from God. In sum, such wisdom is secular in nature. That kind of wisdom focuses on self-gain. For example, some so-called experts will tell you how to invest, what to eat and wear, and where to have fun. The goals are how to make people richer, happier and more successful. Those topics may not necessarily be evil. But everything is centered at ourselves and this life. It does not take God and eternity into consideration. Devilish wisdom will pull people away from God. Let us further analyze the attitudes, actions and aftermaths of such wisdom. James repeats two descriptions in verses 14 and 16 about the attitudes behind devilish wisdom. The first trait is jealousy. This Greek word can also be translated as zeal. It can have both positive and negative meanings. Jesus had a zeal for the temple. He got mad when people turned a house of worship into a marketplace. Therefore, He chased away money-changers and merchants who sold animals. The Bible also describes God as jealous. He cannot tolerate idol-worship. Love must be jealous. Your spouse or boy-friend/girl-friend will agree with that. But here, James points to the bad side of jealousy by adding the adjective “bitter.” He uses the word just a few verses before when he talks about salty water. Bitter or salty water is not drinkable and even harmful to our body. Jealous people are not satisfied with what they have, but they drool about what others have. James pairs jealousy up with selfish ambition. The word is always negative in nature. It means strife. The background is about election at that time. Some candidates used dirty tricks to beat their opponents. The same situation happens in the modern world too. Nothing is new under the sun! Next, we will look at the actions of people who have devilish wisdom. Verse 14 says they boast, most likely about themselves, and they promote falsehood. They want to draw people’s attention to themselves. They cannot wait to show off their knowledge. But the problem is, they replace God’s truth with false teaching. They want to attract followers. After examining the attitudes and actions of people who have devilish wisdom, now we will focus on the aftermaths they cause. Verse 16 says they lead to disorder and every vile practice. They turn unity into disunity. Thus, segregation will happen in a congregation. Everything we just discussed can be summarized by one sin – pride. Proud people only care about themselves. Their mentalities are: “I don’t need you,” and “I can do it better than you do.” The Bible tells us that Satan fell because of pride. God created Satan as an archangel. But the devil was jealous of God, and he wanted to become the same as God. Therefore, Satan led many angels to rebel against God. Another example of pride is in Numbers 12. Miriam and Aaron were jealous about their younger brother Moses. Let us read verses 2-3: **2 And they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?” And the Lord heard it. 3 Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.** They were envious about the fact that God only spoke to Moses but not to them. It was not Moses’ fault! God gave Moses that special privilege. Similarly, it is unreasonable to be jealous about your younger brother if he is better in sports than you do. He was born that way. You may have other strengths that he does not have. Two things of note in the passage. It says: “the Lord heard it.” Of course God hears everything before we say it. The point is that God knew their slander and He would not tolerate such sin. It destroys harmony in the family. It stirred up conflict among the Israelites too. After all, all three of them were leaders. Miriam was a prophetess and Aaron was a high priest. People might take sides about who they should follow. God would not allow chaos to spread. Another remark is about Moses. Verse 3 says Moses was the meekest person in the

world. He might stay silent and let the matter go away. But God stepped in and defended Moses. In the end, God punished Miriam with leprosy. Aaron prayed for God's mercy. Moses' showed humility in response to people's attack. That character was reflected in Jesus' life too. At one time, James and John asked the Lord for permission to sit on His two sides in God's Kingdom. The other ten disciples were mad. Jesus took the opportunity and taught them a lesson on humility. He says in Matthew 20:25-26 – **25 But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant.”** Jesus, the King of kings, became the humblest servant who served many. He died the most gruesome way to pay the price for our sins. Jesus set up a model of self-sacrifice for us to follow. If devilish wisdom is characterized by selfishness, then selflessness is the best antidote to it. True humility is to put God first and put others above yourself. The world treats meekness as weakness. Most people want to be the top guy to order their subordinates. But Jesus encouraged us to lower ourselves and to serve others. The mentality is not “look what I did” but “look what God did” and “how may I help you?” May the Lord help us stay humble at home, in the office and in church, and be willing to serve others.

## 2. 神聖的智慧 Divine Wisdom

If devilish wisdom is all bad, then divine wisdom is all good. Verse 17 specifies that divine wisdom is from above, meaning from God. The Jews crave wisdom. The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about it. For example, Proverbs 2:6 echoes what James tells us: **For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.** God is the ultimate source of wisdom. All human wisdom is derived from His wisdom. Let us briefly consider the seven attitudes of those who have divine wisdom in verse 17. Those qualities are opposite to devilish wisdom. First is pure. People with a pure heart do not have any selfish intent. Next is peaceable. Peaceful people seek harmony. They try to avoid conflict. Number 3 is gentle. Another translation for the word is considerate. It is opposite to selfish ambition. Considerate people are willing to put others' benefits above theirs. Then we see open to reason, which means submissiveness. It is the reverse of self-centeredness. Submissive people are open to listen to and obey others' input. It is followed by full of mercy. People with divine wisdom are sensitive to the feelings and needs of others. The last two items, impartial and sincere, are related to each other. To be impartial is not to show favoritism. Impartial people treat every person the same. Sincere people will not put up a disguise. They appear the same in public and in private. After examining the attitudes of those who have divine wisdom, we will then look at their actions. Verse 13 says people like that will have good works, and they display meekness by true wisdom. Their actions will bless others. Also, they stay humble with wisdom. Verse 18 adds that they sow peace. They bring harmony and not chaos. Lastly, we will highlight the aftermaths of divine wisdom. Verse 18 summarizes two results: peace and righteousness. People who have divine wisdom bless others and they bless themselves with peace and righteousness. James uses planting as an analogy to explain that. It goes back to the principle of you reap what you sow. Devilish wisdom will give rise to thorns and thistles. Selfish actions and sharp tones will hurt those who come close to them.

However, divine wisdom will end in a harvest of abundant and edible fruits. Their pleasant character will attract people. A crop needs the right conditions to grow. By the same token, divine wisdom can only flourish in a godly environment. After all, who will like to go into a toxic atmosphere? Who will like to get close to people who are judgmental, critical and who love to talk behind others' back? It will only break down trust and unity. It will also leave room for Satan to brew conflict and division. On the contrary, godly people will encourage godly actions. Paul summarizes in Philippians 4:8-9 – **8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.** Take a look at the eight favorable things Paul urges us to think about. Those traits are similar to what James teaches us. They are all important ingredients in a peaceful relationship. Godly actions begin from a godly mindset. We will change to become more like Jesus if we have those desires. We cannot wait for others to change. We can only change ourselves by applying divine wisdom. Hopefully our positive example will inspire others to change. We cannot control how others use their mind and mouths. We can only control ours. We cannot stop others from doing ungodly things. We can only use our hands to build others up. The question is what values fill our mind? Every day we are bombarded by secular values from the internet, social media, music and movies. We must detox our mind with God's Word. Then our hearts will be in line with God's truth. It all goes back to the main theme in James' letter: we should not only know the truth, but we should also practice the truth. It does not matter how much of the Bible you have learned, but how much you actually use. We should not only look godly inside the church classroom. We must also live a godly life outside the church.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

Wisdom helps us do the right things, at the right time and with the right mind. We can choose to embrace one of the two forms of wisdom. Our decision will lead to contrasting destinations. We can choose to help or hurt others. Four people were on a small plane. Besides the pilot, there were a computer genius, a pastor and a young boy. While in mid-air, the pilot made a troubling announcement. There was a serious engine failure. The plane had lost its power and it was gradually descending. The pilot had another bad news. He told the passengers: "Unfortunately, there are only three parachutes. They are not enough for all of us. I have a wife and three kids. I think I deserve to live." The pilot grabbed a parachute and jumped off. The computer genius wasted no time and spoke up: "Well, I'm the smartest person ever lived. The world needs me." He followed what the pilot did. Then the pastor turned to the boy: "I've enjoyed a blessed life. You still have a bright future. Why don't you take the last parachute?" The young man did not panic. He replied: "Chill, pastor! The smart guy took my backpack!" People with sound wisdom will make good judgment. True wisdom cannot be earned. It comes from God. But it is not just about getting results. The more important thing is to build an eternal relationship with Him.

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

智慧幫助我們在適當的時間以適當的心態做適當的事。有一個故事是關於一對住在東岸的夫婦。當時是冬天，所以常常會下雪。他們在吃早餐時，聽到收音機的廣播：「預計今晚會下五吋的雪。市政府要求大家把車停在街道的雙號的那一邊，以便工作人員鏟雪。」一週後，另一場暴風雪快要來臨，電台又發出類似的消息：「請大家注意！請把你們的車子移到…」廣播的訊號忽然中斷了。那位太太緊張起來。她問丈夫：「糟糕了！我該怎麼辦？」她的先生很冷靜地回答：「親愛的，為什麼妳不把車子停在車庫裡面呢？」那位女士需要運用智慧來做決定。什麼是智慧？在我們定義智慧之前，讓我們先考慮一些相關的素質。首先是知識。我們透過學習得到知識。其次就是技巧，就是做事的能力。我們把知識付諸行動來鍛鍊技巧。例如煮菜、開車和游泳。第三是才能。它們可能是你與生俱來的長處。有些人擅長唱歌或數學。相關的才能幫助你更快學習新的事物。第四是智力。高智商的人思考和反應更快。智慧和知識、技巧、才能和智力不一樣。智慧是根據神的標準辨別什麼是真實、正確和持久的東西，並將這些成果應用在日常生活中。這個定義有兩個關鍵因素。首先，聖經是我們的標準。我們追求的是神的目標，而不是世界認為重要的目標。第二，智慧不是用來保留的，而是要用出來的。尤其在與人交流時，我們更需要智慧。雅各在前面的段落中談到言語。在第 4 章中，他將教導我們如何用智慧處理衝突。雅各在今天的經文中對比了兩種智慧。我稱它們為邪惡的智慧和神聖的智慧。一種是地上的，另一種是天上的。讓我們從態度、行為和結果三方面比較這兩種智慧。雅各在第 14 至 16 節中描述了邪惡的智慧。從態度上來說，擁有邪惡智慧的人心裡懷著苦毒的嫉妒和分爭 (第 14 和 16 節)。至於行為，邪惡的智慧表現出自誇和謊話 (第 14 節)。它的結果是擾亂和各樣的壞事 (第 16 節)。現在讓我們來看看神聖的智慧。它有很多積極的態度：清潔、和平、溫良、柔順、憐憫、沒有偏見和沒有假冒 (第 17 節)。就行為而言，神聖的智慧表現出善行 (第 13 節) 以及傳播和平 (第 18 節)。所有這些美德會帶來和平與義果 (第 18 節)。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 邪惡的智慧 Devilish Wisdom

現在我們將更深入地探討這兩種智慧。首先，讓我們思考一下邪惡智慧的來源。雅各在第 15 節中使用三個詞語來描述它的源頭。它是屬地的，它不是屬天。它是也是屬情慾的，與屬靈相反。最後，它是屬鬼魔的，指它不是來自神的。總而言之，這種智慧的本質是世俗的。這種智慧注重的是個人利益。例如有些所謂的專家會告訴你如何投資、吃什麼、穿什麼、去哪裡玩。那些目標是如何讓人們更富有、更快樂、更成功。那些目標不一定是邪惡的。但一切都是以自我為中心，只看重今生。它沒有考慮到神和永恆。邪惡的智慧會把人拉離開神。讓我們進一步分析一下這種智慧的態度、行為和結果。雅各在第 14 和 16 節中重複了關於邪惡智慧背後態度的兩個形容。第一個特徵是嫉妒。這個希臘字也可以翻譯為熱情。這個字可以有正面和反面的意思。耶穌對聖殿充滿熱心。當人們把一個敬拜場所變成市場時，祂很生氣。因此，祂把兌換銀錢的人和賣獻祭動物的商人趕走。聖經也將神形容為嫉妒的。祂不能容忍偶像崇拜。愛必然包含有嫉妒。你的配偶、男朋友或女朋友會同意這一點。但在這裡，雅各所提到的是「苦毒」的嫉妒。顯然這是一種負面的嫉妒。他在前幾節經文中談到鹹水。「鹹」和「苦毒」在希臘文是同一個字。鹹水是不能飲用的，甚至是對身體有害的。嫉妒的人不滿足於自己所擁有的東西，而是對別人所擁有的東西流口水。雅各將嫉妒與分爭連在一起。「分爭」可以理解為自私的野心。這個用詞的本質是負面的。它的背景是當時的選舉。有些候選人使用骯髒的手段來打敗對手。同樣的情況也發生在現代世界。難怪聖經說日光之下並無新事！接下來我們來看看擁有邪惡智慧的人的行為。第 14 節說他們自誇，而且他們說謊話抵擋真道。他們希望引起別人的注意。他們迫不及待地想要炫耀自己的知識。但問題是，他們用虛假的教導取代了神的真理。他們只想要吸引跟隨者。看完擁有邪惡智慧的人的態度和行為之後，現在我們了解它帶來的結果。第 16 節說它導致擾亂和各樣的壞事。他們使合一變為分裂。因此，在教會裡就會產生隔離。我們剛才討論的內容可以用驕傲這個罪來總結。驕傲的人只關心自己。他們的心態是：「我不需要你」和「我能做得比你更好」。聖經告訴我們，撒旦因為驕傲而墮落。撒旦本來是神創造的一位天使長。但魔鬼嫉妒神，他想變得和神一樣。因此，撒旦帶領一群天使背叛神。另一個驕傲的例子是在民數記第 12 章。米利暗和亞倫嫉妒他們的弟弟摩西。讓我們讀第 2-3 節：2 (他們) 說：「難道耶和華單與摩西說話，不也與我們說話嗎？」這話耶和華聽見了。3 (摩西為人極其謙和，勝過世上的眾人。) 他們嫉妒摩西，因為神和摩西直接說話，而不與他們說話。這不是摩西的錯！是神賜給摩西這項特權。同樣，如果你的弟弟在運動方面比你出色，你也不應該嫉妒他。他生來就是那樣的！你可能在其他方面比他優勝。這段經文有兩點值得注意。第 2 節說「耶和華聽見了」。當然，我們講話之前神就早已聽到了一切。重點是，神知道他們的毀謗，祂不會容忍這種罪。它破壞了家人的和諧，也會引起以色列人之間的衝突。畢竟，他們三

個人都是領袖。米利暗是一位女先知，亞倫是一位大祭司。人們可能會選擇跟隨其中一人。神不會允許混亂蔓延。另一個細節是關於摩西的。第 3 節說摩西是世上最謙卑的人。他可能寧願保持沉默，讓事情不了了之。但神介入並保護摩西。終於，神用大癡瘋懲罰米利暗。亞倫祈求神的憐憫。摩西以謙卑的態度回應人們的攻擊。這種性情也反映在耶穌的生命中。有一次，雅各和約翰向主請求允許他們在神的國度裡坐在祂左右兩邊。其餘十個門徒聽到後很生氣。耶穌藉此機會教導他們謙卑的道理。祂在馬太福音 20:25-26 說：25 耶穌叫了他們來，說：「你們知道外邦人有君王為主治理他們，有大臣操權管束他們。26 只是在你們中間，不可這樣；你們中間誰願為大，就必作你們的用人。」萬王之王耶穌成為了服事眾人最謙卑的僕人。祂以最殘酷的方式死去，為我們的罪付出了代價。耶穌為我們樹立了自我犧牲的榜樣。如果邪惡智慧的特徵是自私，那麼無私就是對付它的解藥。真正的謙卑是把神放在第一位，把別人放在自己之上。俗世認為謙卑是軟弱的表現。大多數人都想成為老闆，希望指揮下屬。但耶穌鼓勵我們放下自我，去服侍別人。其中的心態不是「看看我做了什麼」，而是「看看神做了什麼」和「我能為你做些什麼？」願主幫助我們在家中、在辦公室、在教會裡保持謙卑，並且願意服侍別人。

## 2. 神聖的智慧 Divine Wisdom

如果邪惡的智慧都是不好的，那麼神聖的智慧全都是好的。第 17 節明確指出神聖的智慧來自上頭，意思是來自神。猶太人渴慕智慧。箴言講了很多有關智慧的教導。例如，箴言 2:6 與雅各的論點互相呼應：因為，耶和華賜人智慧；知識和聰明都由他口而出。神是智慧的最終源頭。人類的一切智慧都是根據神的智慧。讓我們簡要地探討第 17 節中擁有神聖智慧的人的七種態度。第一是清潔。心靈純潔的人不會有任何私心。接下來是和平。和平的人追求和諧。他們盡力避免衝突。第三是溫良。它的意思是體諒別人。它與自私的野心相反。溫良的人願意把別人的利益放在自己的利益之上。然後我們看到柔順，它意味著順服。它是自我中心的相反。柔順的人願意聽取並服從別人的看法。接下來的是滿有憐憫。具有神聖智慧的人敏銳別人的感受和需要。最後兩項，沒有偏見和沒有假冒是相互關連的。沒有偏見就是公正。公正的人對待每個人都一視同仁。沒有假冒是真誠的表現。這樣的人在公共場合和私下表現都是一致的。看完了擁有神聖智慧的人的態度之後，我們接下來了解他們的行為。第 13 節說，這樣的人會在智慧的溫柔上顯出他們的善行來。他們的行為能祝福他人。此外，他們也保持謙卑。第 18 節補充說，他們播散和平。他們帶來的是和諧而不是混亂。最後，我們探討神聖智慧的結果。第 18 節總結了兩個結果：和平與公義。擁有神聖智慧的人會以和平與公義祝福別人，也會同樣祝福自己。雅各用種植作為比喻來解釋這一點。這是「種瓜得瓜，種豆得豆」的道理。邪惡的智

慧會產生荊棘和蒺藜。自私的行為和尖銳的語氣會傷害到靠近他們的人。然而，神聖的智慧最終會帶來豐盛的果子。他們可愛的性格會吸引人。農作物需要適合的條件才能生長。同樣，神聖的智慧也只有有在敬虔的環境中才能健康成長。畢竟，誰會喜歡進入有害的環境呢？誰會主動接近那些喜愛批評、愛挑別人毛病、喜歡在背後說人壞話的人呢？這只會破壞信任和合一，也會讓撒旦留下製造衝突和分裂的空間。相反，屬神的人會鼓勵敬虔的行為。保羅在腓立比書 4:8-9 中總結：**8 弟兄們，我還有未盡的話：凡是真實的、可敬的、公義的、清潔的、可愛的、有美名的，若有什麼德行，若有什麼稱讚，這些事你們都要思念。9 你們在我身上所學習的，所領受的，所聽見的，所看見的，這些事你們都要去行，賜平安的神就必與你們同在。**請注意保羅鼓勵我們思考的八件有益處的事情。這些特質與雅各的建議很相似。它們都是達成和平的重要元素。敬虔的行為是從敬虔的心態開始。如果我們心中渴望那些美德，我們就會改變自己變得更像耶穌。我們不能等待別人改變。我們只能運用神聖的智慧來改變自己。盼望我們的正面榜樣能激勵別人做出同樣的改變。我們無法控制別人如何使用他們의思想和嘴巴，我們只能控制自己的。我們無法阻止別人做不公義的事，我們只能用自己的雙手去幫助他人。問題是我們的心中充滿了什麼價值觀？我們每天都受到來自網路、社交媒體、音樂和電影的世俗觀念的轟炸。我們必須用神的話語來排毒。這樣我們的心思就和神的真理一致。這一切都回到了雅各書的中心思想：我們不只是聽道，我們也必須行道。你學了多少聖經並不是最重要的，關鍵是你實際上運用了多少。我們不應該只在教會的教室裡表現得虔誠，我們也必須在教會以外過著敬虔的生活。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

智慧幫助我們在適當的時間以適當的心態做適當的事。我們可以選擇接受兩種智慧中的一種。我們的決定將會導致截然不同的結果。我們可以選擇幫助別人，也可以選擇傷害別人。一架小型飛機上載有四個人。除了飛機師之外，還有一位電腦天才、一位牧師和一個小男孩。在空中時，駕駛員發出不幸的消息。引擎出現嚴重故障，飛機已經失去動力並逐漸下降。飛機師還有另一個壞消息。他告訴乘客：「非常抱歉，飛機上只有三個降落傘。不夠我們四個人使用。我有太太和三個小孩。我認為我應該繼續活下去。」說完之後，他抓住降落傘便跳下去。那個電腦天才也沒有浪費時間，他說：「嗯，我是有史以來最聰明的人。世界需要我。」他也拿著降落傘跳出去。然後牧師轉向男孩說：「我一生蒙神祝福。你還有光明的前途。請你拿最後一個降落傘吧！」年輕人並不慌張。他回答說：「牧師，保持冷靜！那個自以為很聰明的傢伙拿了我的背包！」有智慧的人會做出正確的判斷。真正的智慧是無法賺取的。它是來自神。重點不只是得到結果，更重要的是與神建立永恆的關係。