

HEAVENLY WISDOM IN AN OUTRAGED WORLD

James 1:19-21 // August 31, 2025 PM

In a world of outrage, the God of heaven speaks to school us in wise speech.

I. Reflect heavenly wisdom in *your* communication to *others* (vv. 19-20).

II. Receive heavenly wisdom in *God's* communication to *you* (v. 21).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Sometimes our culture is referred to as an “outrage culture” or a “cancel culture”? What is meant by these phrases? Do you agree with them?
2. What are the three characteristics that mark wise communication in v. 19? Do any of them come naturally to us in our sin?
3. How does really listening to someone demonstrate that we love them? What does listening entail?
4. What is anger? Why does man’s sinful anger not lead to righteousness? Can you think of an example of this from your own life?
5. What imagery does James use to call us to repentance when we succumb to an angry heart and a hateful tongue?
6. Why does James refer to God’s word as “implanted”? If it is already in us, why do we need to keep receiving it?
7. What is one way you think we could grow to be more loving and wise in our communication with one another at home or church?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Reflect on Nietzsche’s warning: “Those who fight monsters should be careful lest they become monsters.” Why is this such a danger for me?
2. Think of a recent conflict or a relationship that is currently strained. What role have I played in it? Has my heart and tongue been characterized by worldly wisdom, rather than God’s wisdom? How have I done at carrying out the threefold wisdom of v. 19?
3. Are repentance and faith a way of life for me? Am I meekly receiving the implanted word as if my life and eternity depends upon it?