

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

James 3:13-18

Lesson #15

Peacemakers

06/06/2021

James Kingdom Living in a Broken World

A "YES BUT..." book

- ✓ Consider it all joy in trials (1:2)
- ✓ The "have nots" are to glory in their spiritual riches (1:9, 2:5)
- ✓ Justified by works not faith alone (2:24)
- ✓ No one can control the tongue (3:8)
- ✓ **Wisdom is peacemaking (3:18)**

1

James Kingdom Living in a Broken World

3:13-18

Peace makers

This is what we should know	This is what we should do		
Life's trials contain hidden blessings. 1:1-18	"quick to hear" "Listen up" 1:19-2:13	"slow to speak" "Shut up" 2:14-3:12	"slow to anger" "Cool it" 3:13-5:20

James 1:19

"But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;

2

James 3

"¹³ Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him **show by his good behavior** his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

Worldly Wisdom

"¹⁴ But if you have bitter **jealousy and selfish ambition** in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where **jealousy and selfish ambition** exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

Godly Wisdom

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then **peaceable**, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in **peace** by those who **make peace.**"

3

Worldly Wisdom

Signs we are going in the wrong direction.

"¹⁴ But if you have bitter **jealousy and selfish ambition** in your heart, do not be **arrogant** and so **lie** against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is **earthly, natural, demonic**. ¹⁶ For where **jealousy and selfish ambition** exist, there is **disorder** and every evil thing."

4

Godly Wisdom

Signs we are going in the right direction.

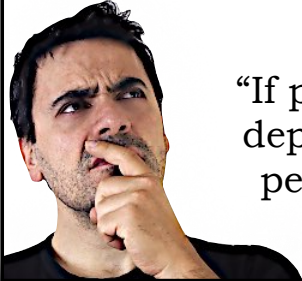
"¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first **pure**, then **peaceable, gentle, reasonable**, full of **mercy** and **good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy**. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in **peace** by those who **make peace.**"

5

Peacemakers bear witness to God.

Matthew 5:9

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”



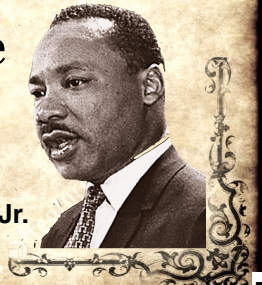
Romans 12:18

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”

6

“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek but a means by which we arrive at that goal”

Martin Luther King Jr.



7

The Point

In facing inevitable conflict
be wise
(not self serving but peacemaking).

8

What does the Scripture teach us about **SYSTEMIC EXPRESSIONS** of racial injustice?

Acts 6:1

“Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the **Hellenistic Jews** against the **native Hebrews**, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.”

9

Wisdom is as wisdom does.

Acts 6

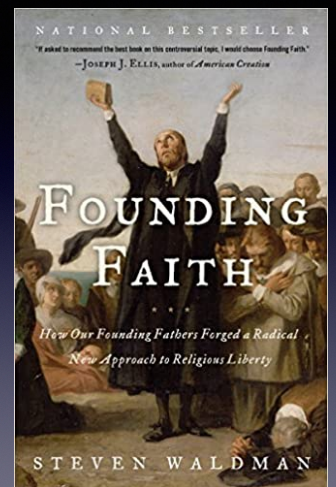
“3 But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of **wisdom**, whom we may put in charge of this task. . . . 5 And the statement found **approval with the whole congregation**; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and **Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas**, a proselyte from Antioch. 6 And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.”

10

How our Founding Fathers
Forged a Radical New
Approach to Civil and
Religious Liberty.



Steven
Waldman



11

America's Original Sin

Not
Slavery, or
materialism,

But
INDEPENDENCE

WE and THEE
in service of

ME



12

America's Golden Calf

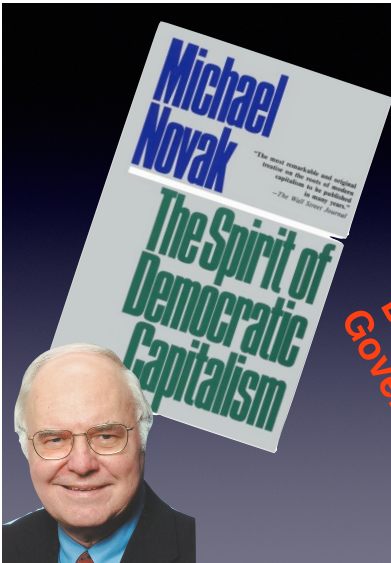
Why was the Law
of Moses given?



13

The American
System

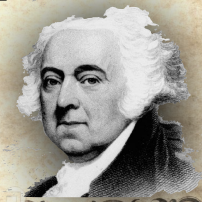
Biblical
ethical spirit



14

“Our constitution was
made only for a moral
and a religious people. It
is wholly inadequate for
the government
of any other.”

John Adams



15

Without a Biblical ethical spirit:

1.

Capitalism becomes
the exploitation of
the poor & weak by
the rich & powerful.

16

Without a Biblical ethical spirit:

2.

Democracy becomes an
endless litigation of rights
or the marginalization of
the minority by the
majority.

17

Without a Biblical ethical spirit:

3.

Pluralism dignifies every kind of divergence as an individual right.

18

Without a Biblical ethical spirit:

4.

Competition ignores compassion, cooperation, and community.

19

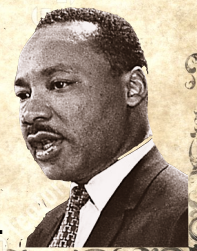
Dealing with Systemic Racism

1. Don't ignore it as "fake news".
2. Respond with Godly wisdom rather than worldly wisdom.
3. Be a peacemaker rather than a warmonger. (What do we fear and who do we blame?)
4. Peacemakers speak the truth with love.
5. Peacemaking calls for team building and self sacrifice - The Way of the Cross.

20

"The Negro needs the white man to free him from his fears. The white man needs the Negro to free him from his guilt."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



21

James 1:19

"But everyone must be
**quick to hear,
slow to speak**
and
slow to anger;"

22