

Prayer for Illumination

Use us, God. Show us how to take who we are; who we want to be; what we can do; and use it for a purpose greater than ourselves. Amen

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8 *Kindness born of Wisdom*

Who is wise and understanding among you?

Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from Heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

But the wisdom that comes from Heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

What causes fights and quarrels among you?

Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

You desire but do not have, so you kill.

You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.

You do not have because you do not ask God.

When you ask, do you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Come near to God and God will come near to you.

Amen

Mark 9:30-37 *Jostling to be the Greatest*

Jesus and His disciples passed through Galilee.

Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because He was teaching His disciples.

Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill Him, and after three days He will rise”.

But the disciples did not understand what Jesus meant and were afraid of ask Him about it.

Jesus and His disciples came to Capernaum. When Jesus was in the house, He asked them, “What were you talking about on the road?”

The disciples kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, **“Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all”**.

Jesus took a little child whom He placed among them. Taking the child in His arms, He said to them, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My Name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me, does not welcome me but the One who sent Me”.

Amen