

Louder Than Words #7  
**Attitudes Accompanying Actions**

*Word*

**Scripture Reference**

James 3:13-18

**Discussion Questions**

1. What New Year Resolution did you make this year? How likely do you think you will achieve it?
2. Every year, a lot of people make a New Year's wish or a resolution, but most of them find it difficult to stay resolute because the attitude that accompanies their actions do not match. Instead of cultivating perseverance and hard work, they view their resolution as a burden that causes them to fail. For a follower of Jesus Christ, it is important to make a spiritual resolution to be Christ-like, and to follow through with that resolution with attitudes and actions that help you achieve that goal. What are actions that tell the world that a person is truly a follower of Christ? Read James 3:13-18. This passage teaches us three important attitudes that project Christ in our life. The first attitude that must be seen in your actions is *humility* (v. 13). Humility is strength under control. When you act with humility, you show wisdom in your actions. Discuss how you can tell if a person is arrogant or wise. How is it possible to be wise and humble at the same time? How should the attitude of humility show in the way you present the gospel to others?
3. Secondly, as a follower of Christ, the attitude of *generosity* should be seen in your actions (v. 14-15). James grasped human nature at its core: people think that they also deserve what others have or experience. Everyone, including Christians, is self-seeking. What is wrong with the "wisdom" of a self-seeking, bitter and envious person? How does this self-absorbed attitude happen in the church? Discuss why a person with this kind of attitude will not last in ministry (serving the Lord and others)? In contrast, why is an attitude of generosity an antidote to a self-seeking one? Why would the world pay attention to a testimony of a Christian with a generous heart?

4. Lastly, the attitude of *loving peace* should be seen in the actions of a follower of Christ (v. 17-18). The wisdom that is from God is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits. Discuss how being so focused on your rights and wanting everything to be "fair" affect your attitude towards others? What does it mean to yield your rights as a genuine follower of Christ? Is it easy to do? What are the possible good fruits if you do?

*Walk*

Jesus Christ is the perfect example of Someone whose attitudes accompanied His actions. He is the example of humility, generosity, and peace when He exhibited them by giving His life in exchange for yours. What are the marks of humility that you would want to see in your life? How does belief in the the spiritual truth that "in Christ you have everything you need" stop you from fighting for the scrap of this world? What feasible and practical seeds of peace can you sow this year? How could the attitude of humility, generosity, and peace be integrated in your spiritual resolution for this year?

*Worship & Prayer*

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding me that in bearing Your name, my actions should always be one of humility, generosity, and peace. I confess that I find it impossible to do on my own, because I am selfish and self-seeking. Forgive me, Father. I rest in the knowledge that through Jesus Christ's example I can see how these attitudes look like, and through the Holy Spirit I am enabled to cultivate those attitudes. Make my heart humble to receive correction, make me generous in putting others before myself, and make me be so satisfied in You that it doesn't matter if I don't get my way all the time. In Jesus' name. Amen.*