



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

October 20, 2024

“James 3: Heavenly 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.” (James 3:14-15)

One word really jumps out at me: “demonic.” This is not a word that I use or hear often at all. Many people in the modern world do not believe in evil or demons, things that the word “demonic” conjures up for us. Since James describes bitter envy and self-ambition as demonic, how should we understand and take to heart the existence of the demonic as James describes it? How does he distinguish heavenly wisdom from this?

James is challenging us to think deeply about the nature of envy and selfish ambition in our lives. Even in today’s world, where many may not believe in literal demons or evil as an external force, James encourages us to understand the demonic, not just as supernatural beings, but as attitudes that corrupt, destroy, and lead us away from the life God intends.

To take James’ warning seriously today, we should consider our own motives and the impact of our actions when we see jealousy, greed, or ambition creeping into our thoughts:

- Is this leading to division or peace?
- Am I prioritizing myself over others?
- Is this desire aligned with love, humility, and service?

James calls us to actively pursue wisdom that mirrors God’s character, not the world’s. Even in a world that often dismisses the existence of evil, we can still recognize and reject the forces *within us* that harm others and disrupt the peace God desires. In choosing humility, love, and peace, we embrace the wisdom from above and live out our faith authentically.



Recent Raquette Lake Chapel History Our Prayer Box

Three years ago, Corky Risely built the prayer box that sits outside the front door of the Chapel. While we have not seen it stuffed full of prayers, we have seen messages written to the Chapel asking for prayers, just saying “hi,” and wishing well for all the members of the Chapel!



Prayer Box: *pray for healing for Debbie, Bill, Holland, Steve, John H., Patti, and Susan; pray for Florence’s soul and her grieving family; pray for the soul of John G. and his grieving family; pray for Justin and his family; pray for those affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton; pray for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Sudan.*

Lord, hear our prayers!

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