

1. From Another Place—Matthew 18:36 (Context—tension built into it. Jesus preparing his disciples for what is next. You have peace, but you won't. I have a place prepared for you but you cannot go there yet. You can ask anything my name and I will give it, but some of you are going to die because of following me. Tension. It is about living in two worlds. It is about dealing with the brokenness surrounding us in our time and place, while also embracing and living out the values of the kingdom, not of this world. This will always, always bring conflict. So Jesus would say things such as **I have told you these things, so that in my you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.** It is all illustrated in what he told Pilate about kings and kingdoms. Christ's kingdom is not of this world—it is from another place; yet here we remain in this world and this place. Tension. Yet we are called to navigate it—to express, live out, give witness to, and promote the values of the otherworldly kingdom of Christ to the present world in which we exist. Turn the other cheek; love enemies; do not seek vengeance; don't hate; do unto others as we would have them do unto us; look upon others needs better than our own; be peacemakers; humble and pure; avoid the very appearance of evil, etc. Tension. But this is what being from another place means. It means Jesus in the garden during the tension and violence surrounding his arrest being the peacemaker—put your swords away. We still need to sheath our swords. It is the kingdom way. We cannot engage the world with the tactics they use)
2. James 3:13-18 (I like this commentary)
3. Wisdom that Comes from Above (from that other place)
 - a. Pure
 - b. Peace-loving
 - c. Considerate
 - d. Full of mercy and good fruit
 - e. Impartial
 - f. Sincere (this is how we go about navigating the tension; these are the tools from another place at our disposal to give witness to God's kingdom. This is how we are going to make real dents into this tension—not by arguing; by engaging in political FB anger; not by pushing any other agenda than the kingdom's. This is exactly how the powerless, marginalized Christians changed the world in the 1st century. Not thru bullets or ballets; not through politicians; But rather by living the values of the kingdom from another place out faithfully; speaking the wisdom from above out into their world. They did not eliminate the tension; they just demonstrated an alternative to it. That what Christ did and what he desires from us)
4. (I really like how James ends this section) "Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness." (Shouldn't this be our goal? With all of the tension surrounding us—all of the junk that goes on blasted our way in 24/7 alarmist news headlines; with folks hurting around us—show them something different! Let them see within us the peace that passes understanding; a different reaction; a confident, hope-filled one—one that is not a slave to the moment and the latest headline; one that comes from another place. Sowing that kind of seed will result in all manner of blessings. First let us put our own personal swords away; stop contributing to the tension. Then let's listen to Jesus—he gives us peace and the ability to navigate the tension triumphantly. And so—let us raise that harvest of righteousness by being peacemakers, by living out the wisdom that comes from above—that other place—God's kingdom within us.)
5. Not of This World