

DISCUSSION NOTES

SERMON TOPIC: SHREWD

Matthew 10 v 14 -16

If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves.

Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

We absorb numerous messages in our lifetime, about how we are supposed to behave. Sometimes we give specific messages more value than others, such as...be gentle, be kind, be patient, be loving, be innocent. These are powerful and truthful messages, and as people of faith, we should treasure the pursuit of these qualities in our character.

KEY POINTS

MEANING OF SHREWD

It means to show sharp powers of judgment, to be astute, sharp-witted, intelligent, clever, canny, showing keen mental discernment and good judgement, perceptive and savvy.

Do we place as much value on developing these characteristics as we do on being innocent, being kind and being patient?

How many times do we hear these messages given:

Be hyper-vigilant, be guarded, be calculating, be astute

Be marked by a practical and hard headed intelligence

BE SHREWD!

SUMMARY

Let's pause for a moment and really reflect on the message given to us from the Book of Matthew:

"Be shrewd as a serpent, yet innocent as a dove."

Matthew 10:16.

Do we hear it? This powerful instruction puts as much emphasis on being shrewd as it does on being innocent. In fact, it suggests we should put equal weight on both qualities when we make decisions. We should not be more innocent than we are shrewd; we should pursue a fifty-fifty balance.

Shrewd in the Bible

Gen 3:1 - Now the serpent was more shrewd than any of the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Is it really true that God said, 'You must not eat from any tree of the orchard'?"

2 Sam 13:3 - Amnon had a friend named Jonadab, a son of David's brother Shimeah. Jonadab was a very shrewd man,

2 Sam 22:27 - with the pure You prove Yourself pure, but with the crooked You prove Yourself shrewd.

Job 5:12 - "He frustrates the plotting of the shrewd, So that their hands cannot attain success.

Psa 18:26 - with the pure You prove Yourself pure, but with the crooked You prove Yourself shrewd.

Psa 83:3 - They make shrewd plans against Your people, And conspire together against Your treasured ones.

Prov 8:5 - Learn to be shrewd, you who are inexperienced; develop common sense, you who are foolish.

Prov 12:23 - A shrewd person conceals knowledge, but a foolish heart publicizes stupidity.

Matt 10:16 - "Look, I'm sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as serpents and as harmless as doves.

Act 7:19 - It was he who took shrewd advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers so that they would expose their infants and they would not survive.

1 Cor 4:10 - We, for Christ's sake, are labeled as "foolish"; you, as Christians, are men of shrewd intelligence. We are mere weaklings: you are strong. You are in high repute: we are outcasts.

Prov 13:16 - Every shrewd person acts with knowledge, but a fool displays his folly.

Prov 14:8 - The wisdom of the shrewd person is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deception.

Prov 14:15 - A naive person believes everything, but the shrewd person discerns his steps.

Prov 14:18 - The naive inherit folly, but the shrewd are crowned with knowledge.

Prov 19:25 - Strike a scoffer and the naive may become shrewd, But reprove one who has understanding and he will gain knowledge.

Prov 22:3 - A shrewd person sees danger and hides himself, but the naive keep right on going and suffer for it.

Prov 27:12 - A shrewd person sees danger and hides himself, but the naive keep right on going and suffer for it.

Isa 5:21 - Woe (judgment is coming) to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever and shrewd in their own sight!

Jer 4:22 - "For My people are foolish, They know Me not; They are stupid children And have no understanding. They are shrewd to do evil, But to do good they do not know."

Zech 9:2 - and also against Hamath, which borders it, as well as Tyre and Sidon, though they are very shrewd.

Luk 16:8 - And his master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light.

Act 7:19 - It was he who took shrewd advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers so that they would expose their infants and they would not survive.