

**“BE AS WISE/SHREWD/CAUTIOUS AS SERPENT AND AS INNOCENT AS DOVE”**

## **TEXT I: Matthew 10:16**

"Listen! I am sending you out just like sheep to a pack of wolves. You must be as cautious as snakes and as gentle as doves. (Good News)

... be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. (NIV)

... be therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. (KJV)

## **TEXT II: WORDS OF CAUTION**

**Deuteronomy 31:6** “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

### **Ecclesiastes 9:10**

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.”

.... **Wisdom, knowledge and Understanding will set you apart among wolves**

### **Isaiah 40:31**

“but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

### **Philippians 4:13**

“ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

### **Hebrews 12:12**

“Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.”

## **1 Corinthians 9: 25-26**

“Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.”

**WE MUST BE AS WISE/SHREWD/CAUTIOUS AS SERPENT AND AS INNOCENT AS DOVE.”**

**BRETHREN, FACT IS THAT GOD WORKS WITH ONLY THE PEOPLE HE CALLS. AND TO THIS PEOPLE HE TELLS “I am sending you out just like sheep to a pack of wolves.”**

**Roman 8:** <sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who<sup>[i]</sup> have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, ...<sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

**It is, therefore, the called that He puts into the pack of wolves. In that pack, He expects us to excel. This is where your wisdom is tested.**

**As Christians, we are thought to be gentle, which is good. Same bible tells us to be wise. It means that gentleness without wisdom will take us down a wrong path.**

**Wolves will always display their schemes.**

**However, a combination of calmness and wisdom enabled those who have gone before us to succeed.**

### **WISE AS SERPENT**

**In Matthew 26,** <sup>57</sup> Those who had arrested Jesus took him to the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. <sup>58</sup> But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. .. <sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard (AMONG WOLVES), and a servant girl came to him.

“You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said. <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. (Out of fear, Peter did not display wisdom but rather denied his faith)

<sup>71</sup> Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

<sup>72</sup> He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!”

<sup>73</sup> After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.”

<sup>74</sup> Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!”

Immediately a rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

## HOW THE HARMLESS DOVE DISPLAYS WISDOM OF SERPENT

**To be wise as a serpent** relates to being prudent, careful, and intelligent – i. e. street-smart.

**To be harmless as doves** depicts gentleness and peace; purity, innocence, and simplicity i.e. let God fight your battle.

**WISDOM IS THE ABILITY TO DISCERN/UNDERSTAND A SCHEME AND PRODUCE A CORRECT ACTION/RESPONSE IN A GODLY MANNER AND YET WITHOUT SEEMINGLY FIGHTING BACK OR HURTING THE OPPOSITION.**

**1 Kings 4:** <sup>29</sup>And God gave Solomon wisdom, **exceedingly deep insight, and understanding beyond measure**, like the sand on the seashore. <sup>30</sup>Solomon's wisdom was greater than that of all the men ...<sup>31</sup>He was wiser than all men—... And his fame spread throughout the surrounding nations.

**Every Christian should pray for God to give him/her insights, deep understanding and street smartness beyond every situation/circumstance.**

### **Acts 7:22**

So Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

### **Ecclesiastes 1:16**

I said to myself, "Behold, I have grown and increased in wisdom beyond all those before me who were over Jerusalem, and my mind has observed a wealth of wisdom and knowledge."

### **Daniel 1:20**

In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his entire kingdom.

## HARMLESS AS THE DOVE

In whatever area God puts you, He will prosper you. You do not need to force it.

**Genesis 26, God asked Isaac to live in Gerar.**

<sup>12</sup> Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him. <sup>13</sup> The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. <sup>14</sup> He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. <sup>15</sup> So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth.

**<sup>16</sup> Then Abimelek said to Isaac, "Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us."**

<sup>17</sup> So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled.



## **HARMLESS AS THE DOVE**

**Genesis 26,** <sup>19</sup> Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there. <sup>20</sup> But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, because they disputed with him. <sup>21</sup> Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah. <sup>22</sup> He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, saying, "**Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish in the land.**"

<sup>23</sup> **From there he went up to Beersheba.** <sup>24</sup> **That night the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham."** <sup>25</sup> Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.

**A Dove, will not get into battle unless God tells it to do so.**

## **Genesis 26 (contd)**

<sup>26</sup> Meanwhile, Abimelek had come to Isaac from Gerar, with Ahuzzath his personal adviser and Phicol the commander of his forces. <sup>27</sup> Isaac asked them, “Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me and sent me away?”

<sup>28</sup> **They answered, “We saw clearly that the LORD was with you;**

**The Lord will always go with the child who is as wise as the serpent and as harmless as the dove.**

**Bible says the battle is not ours but the Lords.**

**In Matthew 2: we see an example of being as wise as serpent and as harmless as a Dove”**

<sup>12</sup>”And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they

withdrew to their country by another route. **13**When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up!” he said. “Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the Child to kill Him.” **14**So he got up, took the Child and His mother by night, and withdrew to Egypt

## **Summary**

**To “BE AS WISE/SHREWD/ CAUTIOUS AS SERPENT AND AS INNOCENT AS DOVE” we will, in every situation, ask God for:**

- **Wisdom**
- **Understanding**
- **Knowledge**
- **Intelligence**
- **Discernment**

To enable the child Analyze right, Act right and Account right.

Such a child never works in fear but is confident in what God can do.

## 2019 PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray over today's message. We are to consistently ask for wisdom, knowledge, understanding, intelligence and insights to enable us appropriate analyze a situation, act right and account right.
2. For KCM ask for grace to diligently fulfil its mandate as "the house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7), extending God's love to all the nations.
3. Prayer for the Leaders of Nations – for wisdom, knowledge, understanding, intelligence and insights to enable us appropriate analyze a situation, act right and account right.
4. Thank God for stopping wars in nations. Ask Him for peace to continue to reign
5. Continue to ask God to have mercy on our land, forgive our sins & heal us (2 Chro, 7:13-18).
6. Pray for Ministers and Missionaries.- for wisdom, knowledge, understanding, intelligence and insights to enable us appropriate analyze a situation, act right and account right.
7. Pray for Marriages, Children and families. Restoration of troubled marriages & children - for wisdom, knowledge, understanding, intelligence and insights to enable us appropriate analyze a situation, act right and account right.
8. Pray for Members of the fellowship - for wisdom, knowledge, understanding, intelligence and insights to enable us appropriate analyze a situation, act right and account right.
9. Pray for the needs of the members & the fellowship, and any special request.
10. Also pray for next Sunday.