

50 Commands of Christ - 5 - (#22-25)

22. Pray for those who spread the word—*Matthew 9:37-38*. For whom did Jesus tell his disciples to pray?

Who are the non-Christians in your life? What can you do to help them see their need for Christ?

What barriers stand in the way of people you know listening to the gospel?

23. Be as shrewd as serpents—*Matthew 10:16*. (Also see *Romans 16:19*)

Why did Jesus give this command? If Jesus were here talking to us today, do you think he would emphasize this command or downplay it?

Jesus said his apostles should be like two very different animals: _____ and _____. What does the Bible say are the characteristics of these animals?

Why did Jesus say his followers must be shrewd? That doesn't sound like Jesus.

24. Fear God. Do not fear man— *Matthew 10:28*, also *Luke 12:4-5*.

What is the "soul" as mentioned here? (*Psalms 35:9-10, Psalm 6:3*)

How does the possibility of persecution make you feel? Realistically, in America today, could you be actually persecuted for your Christian views? How?

Do (or should) we serve God because we are afraid of him?

25. Listen to God's voice—*Matthew 11:15, 13:9, 13:43, Mark 4:23, Luke 14:35, 1 Kings 19:11-13*

Jesus often gave this simple command after telling a _____.

What did Jesus mean by this simple command?

Would it be likely to broaden his audience or make it smaller?

How might it be expressed today?

How can we consider more carefully what we hear?

23. Be as shrewd as serpents

Matthew 10:16 - Behold, I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves; be wary and wise (shrewd, prudent) as serpents, and be innocent (harmless, guileless, and without falsity, also simple) as doves. (Amplified Bible)

In Biblical times, the word “shrewd” did not have the same derogatory sense of meaning that it seems to have today. It was a more positive term meaning cautious, wise, and prudent. Also, a serpent tends to adapt to its surroundings taking on the temperature of the surface it is lying on and “sniffing” the air with its tongue. Think of what this means in interacting with people you don't know.

24. Fear God. Do not fear man

The “soul” is *not* a spiritual aspect in distinction from the physical, nor is it the “inner” being in distinction from the “outer” being, but it is his very self as a living, conscious, personal being. “Bones” in Psalm 6:2 and “soul” in 6:3 are not separate but were two ways of the David referring to himself, to his “whole being” (Psalm 35:10)

25. Listen to God's voice

The passage in 1 Kings about listening to God's voice is especially meaningful. Chances are, God will not speak to you from a burning bush, a hurricane wind, or an earthquake, but in a very quiet place, perhaps when you least expect it.

1 Kings 19:11-13 - ¹¹ The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”