

## Can we learn from the devil?

When you think about the devil what is the first thing that comes into your mind? Is it the fact that we are in a war with him? Or maybe you think of how he is evil and the king of lies. He has been our enemy forever. We are told to flee from him... But, have you ever thought about what we can learn from him?

Look at **Mat 10:16** we find something we need to do when we go out into the world, notice what we are to do and who else does this. "**Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.** We are to be "wise as serpents". Who else is called a serpent in the Bible? Well Satan is. When the Bible tells the story of creation in Genesis, it talks about the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. As we read about them, we learn of the "serpent" who tempted Adam and Eve. This serpent is the devil. What is the difference between the way we are to be and the way Satan is? We are told to be innocent like doves. Satan will try to appear like an innocent dove. He will blend in so that it doesn't look like any big deal, like it's just some innocent fun. But, that's not all it is, it looks innocent even though it will require your soul. As Christians we need to be wise like Satan, but not in the same exact way. We don't need to change the appearance of the scriptures; however, we do need to realize there is a bad way to approach people about the truth. For instance, if you start preaching loudly at the gates of a big league baseball game people will think you're crazy. We need to be smart in how we talk to people. The devil knew how to approach Adam and Eve, what to say and how to say it. He wasn't afraid or ashamed to do it either.

We can learn something else from the devil, in **1Pe 5:8** we can see something that the devil does that we need to be doing as well. It says, **be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prows around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.** As Christians we need to be looking and actively seeking ways to talk to people about the word of God. We need to not just stay at home and never say anything to the people we know or come in contact with. Think if the devil never tried to tempt people, would he ever get people to sin? Obviously not, he has to search them out, stalk them and then prey on them. The same thing applies to us, not that we prey on people, but we do need to be persistent in our pursuit of them. People aren't going to just call us up or knock on our door and ask us to teach them. So we need to search out opportunities to teach, and remember to be smart with the ones we have. We need to beat the devil at his own game. Can we learn from the devil?

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