

Serve God's Purpose Part 5

Be Wise in the Way You Act Toward Outsiders and Seek and Inquire of the Lord

“5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” (Colossians 4:5-6 KJV)

David was wise in the way he dealt with the outsiders. David fled away from Saul because Saul wanted to kill him. He went to Achish, king of Gath. There he acted wisely toward the outsiders in order to protect himself and to carry on God's purpose: **“10 And David arose and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. 11 And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands? 12 And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath. 13 And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard. 14 Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me? 15 Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? shall this fellow come into my house?” (1 Samuel 21:10-15 KJV)** Wherever you are, you need to act wisely with those around you; do not open up the works of God to the non believers, but be wise in hiding the works of God that it should not be told or exposed to the enemies, to those who work with the devil.

David pretended to be mad so that no one would put an eye on him. As well he pretended to be mad to continue the mission work that he was doing for the Lord. David acted wisely for God, to reach different areas and to do what God told him to do, while the eyes of the enemies were not directed to him. **“8 And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt. 9 And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the apparel, and returned, and came to Achish. 10 And Achish said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And David said, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites. 11 And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring tidings to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so will be his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines.” (1 Samuel 27:8-11 KJV)** Do not expose the works of God toward the outsiders and do not disclose the secrets of God to any of those non believers with you and around you.

These were the tactics and the practice of David that every worker including you should adopt. David was acting wisely not only toward the king and the people of Gath. He was also very wise in completing every mission work he faced. He completely wiped out the men and women in every area where God commanded him to attack. And by completely carrying out the mission, he was also protecting himself from any ensnare of the enemies. In the same way you are called to fully complete the mission work that God had entrusted to you to do. You should do it precisely so that yourself will be secured and protected. Jesus said, **“16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” (Matthew 10:16 KJV)** In serving the Lord you need to be very wise

among outsiders. You don't need to speak up everything you want to do to the people around you. Plan in your mind and keep control over your mouth. Boasting and showing off could only expose you to dangers and threats. Also, any incomplete work for God would soon require you to give an account and/or could be used against you.

My Dear and Beloved: Today, you are advised to be wise in everything you do as God's Word teaches you remembering there are people around you who are watching and observing you and that is why you need to be careful how you are acting: **“5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” (Colossians 4:5-6 KJV)**

Now we will speak about the importance of seeking God and inquiring from him: **“Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.” (2 Chronicles 18:4 KJV)** David inquired and sought the Lord's counsel in his going. He used to inquire of the Lord to get clear direction before taking any action. To serve God's purpose in your life, you need to always seek and inquire of the Lord.

The priest, Ahimelech, spoke about David to King Saul the following: **“15 Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? ” (1 Samuel 22:15 KJV)** This means that David was oftentimes asking the help of the priest to inquire of the Lord for his behalf. David inquired of the Lord in many other occasions and God answered him. Thus he reaped many benefits for taking the privilege to seek and inquire of the Lord. In the same way for you before you start to do certain plans inquire of the Lord, come to the church and open up your plan to the leaders of the church so they will guide you in what you need to do. Let us go through the various occasions that David inquired from the Lord:

A. “1 Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors. 2 Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah. 3 And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines? 4 Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand. 5 So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.” (1 Samuel 23:1-5 KJV) Here we can read that David was burdened with the situation of the Israelites in Keilah who were invaded by the philistines, and for their sake he inquired from God of what he needed to do. We need to have the burden for one another and to help those who are in troubles. But before we do that we need to ask the Lord to lead us into His will as David did. The people with David they warned him not to go, because it was dangerous situation, but he verified their doubt by going back and inquiring again from God. * If God will not send us and approve our journeys we will not go. If God will tell us to move, then we don't to be afraid to go even to dangerous places. * Also in the same way; even for the easy journeys that we want to do, if God will not approve that to us, then we should not move and we should not go ahead in our journeys without God's approval.

Let us continue to read:

“6 And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand. 7 And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah. And Saul said, God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars. 8 And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. 9 And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod. 10 Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake. 11 Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down. 12 Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver thee up. 13 Then David and his men, which were about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbore to go forth.” (1 Samuel 23:6-13 KJV) Here we can see that even David had done great things for the people of Keilah and had saved them from their enemies they were not faithful to him. * You see here that our faith should not be built on people and our trust should not be built on our trust on people but on God. Our decision should not be build up on people whom we serve and should not depend on our own understanding. * That is why we should always rely on God and His help and guidance to us and not on the people. Even the people that we serve and do good, they might be the same people who will betray us and do us harm and stand in support to our enemies, the devil. David his policy was clear, that he rely on God and God alone. When he heard that Saul was coming he asked God if Saul will come and if the people of Keilah will hand him to Saul. God answered clearly his two questions and guided him of what he needed to do. God told him that Saul will come down and that the people of Keilah will hand him over to Saul, so he concluded that he needed to leave Keilah. In the same way keep seeking and asking God and inquire from him for each and every situation that you are passing in your life so you will be well guided.

Now the question is here: how David inquired of God? *“6 And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand. 9 And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod.” (1 Samuel 23:6, 9 KJV)* David inquired of God through the prescribed way, through the priest as God ordained in His Word as we read here of how God commanded Moses of how such to be done when God appointed Joshua to lead His people after Moses: *“18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; 19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. 20 And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. 21 And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation. 22 And Moses did as the LORD commanded him: and he took Joshua, and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation: 23 And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.” (Numbers 27:18-23 KJV)* David humbled himself and asked the priest of what he needed to do. The king needed to stand before the priest who will ask for him from the mouth of God. * In the same way, you need to humble yourself like as what David did here and to take the initiative to ask the church leaders to guide you out from the struggles that you are in,

to help you to take the right decision. * In the New Testament God had placed pastors, teachers, prophets and evangelist in the church and you can open to them your struggles and ask advice and direction from them. * You need also to understand that the only way to find out the secretly practiced mischief against you is by inquiring from God who will reveal to you and to His church what the evil doers did or doing against you or planning to do against you in secret.

What we also learned from this story that the priest did not go by himself to King David and gave him the advice unless David went to him. * So what we can learn from here is that no point to go and advice the people and insist on them to do the right thing if they themselves will not come and ask us that themselves because no point to go and tell people the right advice if they are not willing to humble down and ask because simply they will not obey. * Therefore, humble yourself and take the initiative to ask the church leaders to guide you out from the struggles that you are in, and to help you to take the right decision.

B. “1 And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; 2 And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. 3 So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. 4 Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 5 And David’s two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. 7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech’s son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. 8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all. ” (1 Samuel 30:1-8 KJV)

Truly David here listened and obeyed God, therefore he retrieved all what the enemy had taken from him. *“9 So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed. 10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor. 11 And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water; 12 And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk any water, three days and three nights. 13 And David said unto him, To whom longest thou? and whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick. 14 We made an invasion upon the south of the Cherethites, and upon the coast which belongeth to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire. 15 And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company. 16 And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah. 17 And David smote them from the twilight*

even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled. 18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives. 19 And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all. 20 And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drove before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil." (1 Samuel 30:9-20 KJV) In the same way when you humble yourself and come back to God and inquire from him in the prescribed way, God shall answer you and will lead you to come out from your troubles and recover all what the devil had taken away from you.

C. "1 And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron." (2 Samuel 2:1 KJV) David even inquired of the Lord where he should go and where he should live. Many they plan to go and travel to different places but they fail to ask God and at the end it proves that they are doing their own will. Keep inquiring from God about such things so God shall guide you and answer exactly where you need to move and to which place you are called to live.

My Dear and Beloved: "2 So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezeelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite. 3 And his men that were with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron. 4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, That the men of Jabeshgilead were they that buried Saul." (2 Samuel 2:3-4 KJV) You see here when David inquired from God and listened and did what God asked him to do, he was blessed; his men came and gathered around him, and the men of Judah came to the place that God directed him to go up and anointed him to be their king. In the same way when you keep inquiring from God and do what he tells you to do, then things for you will fall into right places, and you will see your obedience to God's voice had achieved many things for you.

Let us pray . . .

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Words that direct me in my life and remind me of all your ways. Lord thank you for your Word that taught the importance to behave wisely with in the presence of the outsiders and the importance of seeking you and inquiring from you in all the situations that passing in my life. Lord, thank you for all the corrections and the rebukes that I received in this message.

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess and renounce your pride, boasting, careless talk and showing off. Confess and renounce your hurries to speak but without discernment. Confess and renounce your lack of self-control on your tongue. Confess and renounce your delay obedience and stubbornness. Renounce your non willingness to humble down before God and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God. Confess and renounce your non willingness to humble down and open your life to the church leaders and inquire from God through them. Confess and renounce your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Confess and renounce your many friends, being yoked with non believers and wasting your time on the Media, News and games. Lord forgive me, I

repent of the following sins _____ . Lord, cleanse me from boasting and showing off.

Lord, I humble myself at your feet and with all my heart I am willing to listen, to change my mind, and to obey what you would ask me to do. Lord, please give me wisdom and discernment wherever you are sending me, and teach me how to behave in the presence of the outsiders. Lord, let your wisdom be upon me and enable me to take wise decisions, and to do things that you want me to achieve; so that your will and your purpose in my life and for the lives of the generation that I am serving will succeed. Lord, I commit myself to inquire of you at all times and in all things that come across my life. I commit myself to seek your counsel for all that I am about to do in serving you and in doing the mission work. Lord, uphold me with your grace, give me wisdom and answer me when I call. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

Lord help me to act wisely with the outsiders in the following condition that is passing in my life _____ .

Lord I inquire from you to guide me what to do in the following crisis and the attack of the enemy that I am passing through _____ .

Lord thank you for all my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and humble themselves to you and showed their willingness to abide with your instructions. Lord give them wisdom and discernment how to act toward the outsiders. Lord guide them and answer their prayers and lead us to guide them to take the right decision and the correct steps for their lives. Lord provide their needs, protect them, and help them to come out from the crisis that they are passing through.

Lord bless us as a church and help us to continue to teach and preach your Word and the mandates that you had placed on us to do. Lord give us discernment and lead us always to take the right decision that goes along your will. We come against all the work of the devil and we rebuke it in the name of Jesus. Lord protect us and provide all our needs to continue to serve you. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and serve you, to evangelize, making new disciples, training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Serve God's Purpose Part 5. Be Wise in the Way You Act Toward Outsiders and Seek and Inquire of the Lord. Colossians 4:5-6. 1 Samuel 21:10-15. 1 Samuel 27:8-11. Matthew 10:16. 2 Chronicles 18:4. 1 Samuel 22:15. 1 Samuel 23:1-13. Numbers 27:18-23. 1 Samuel 30:1-20. 2 Samuel 2:1-4

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