



God Time – The Attitude of Making Peace

These scriptures are selected to help you gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. You can read them each day or listen to the daily audio that is sent to you. They are intentionally designed for you to engage in your time alone with God. You will find them complementary to the teachings on the weekend (gatherings) and to the LIFE Group materials.

Some tips:

Use a Bible that is easy to read. The ESV or The NLT are both good translations.

Use a prayer journal. After you read the passages jot down what “jumped out” at you while reading. Then take a few minutes to write a prayer response to what you have read.

There are only five days of reading provided so if you miss a day you have time to catch up. Do not get legalistic! If you miss a day or even a week...God still loves you!

Monday: Romans 14:16-19

Tuesday: Romans 12:16-18

Wednesday: 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

Thursday: John 14:24-27

Friday: Colossians 3:12-15

Diving Deeper

The Attitude of Jesus – The Attitude of Peacemakers

Matthew 10:16 – I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they are called the sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9) Jesus wants us to seek peace, but to have true peace requires us to have a spirit of wisdom, kindness, gentleness, and patience. It is the fruit of the spirit that guides us toward peace, but it is the way in which we present ourselves that determines whether peace is in our hearts. Jesus has been preparing the disciples to go out into a wicked and evil world. He knows what they will face, and He knows what you will face as well. He knows the dangers are great, and



consequently, He wants you to know what qualities are necessary to present yourself as a peacemaker.

In Matthew 10:16, Jesus is telling us, first, that we are to be like sheep among wolves. A sheep is no match for a wolf. One wolf is capable of destroying a whole flock of sheep. How strange it is that Jesus, the Great Shepherd, would send any of His flock out into such danger. As the shepherd, He is responsible for protecting and caring for the sheep. But He sends them out. Why? Because He has for quite some time been teaching and preparing them for this time. It is now their time to go out and teach others who come their way, but also to go after the lost sheep. They were given their commission, and we also have been given our commission to go and spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. There will be great peril. The task will be difficult and there will be much danger. We are called to go among those who will not in any way sympathize with our efforts. The sheep and the wolf are very different animals. They have nothing in common. Like wolves, those who love the world, will howl and seek to devour those who have been sent to share God's word. We will not be met with open arms, and many will be offended. But know that we must stay the course as peacemakers for we have a mission to build the Kingdom.

Jesus does not send us out without proper guidelines. He expects us to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. This does not mean that we are to be cunning and deceitful like a serpent. Instead, we are to be alert like a serpent who is always aware of its surroundings and anything that poses a danger. We are to be wary and cautious of the ungodly staying away from those who quarrel and are up to no good. Like serpents, we are to glide along quietly and go where no other creatures can go. We seek to penetrate one's heart with the truth of God's word. But we are simultaneously, to be like a dove, innocent, harmless, kind, and gentle. Confident but fearless. Pure and without anger. A dove has no fangs, horn, hoof or other means of defense. This defenselessness, which looks like our weakness, is our real strength. Why? Because we are expected to be in control of our passion and show love to others, always on the lookout for the traps that have been set to capture us. We are to be wary of those who seek to destroy us and avoid them. By combining the wisdom of a serpent and the peace and innocence of a dove, we will be equipped to maneuver our way around this wolf infested world.

1. Are you wise?
2. Are you kind?
3. Are you a peacemaker? Are you like a dove or a hawk?