

JA5. Being Wise, Prudent, and Harmless When Ministering in the Midst of Enemies.

We are to be wise, prudent, and harmless when ministering in the midst of enemies.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 10:16-17

Pay attention! I am sending you out like sheep among wolves, so be as prudent as snakes and as harmless as doves. Be on guard, for there will be people who will hand you over to the local Sanhedrins and flog you in their synagogues.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 7:15

Luke 7:3

Acts 20:29

Related New Testament Mitzvot

JA04 Not Worrying About What to Say When We Are Persecuted

JA07 Not Being Surprised at Being Hated

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Proverbs 10:19

When words are many, sin is not lacking; so he who controls his speech is wise.

Proverbs 11:30

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls.

Proverbs 14:16

A wise person fears and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and overconfident.

Proverbs 29:9

When a wise man argues with a foolish one, he meets anger and ridicule without relief.

Comment

We who are disciples of Yeshua are (as were Yeshua's original disciples) called to minister the Good News to the outside world that Yeshua characterizes as "among wolves." "Wolves" refers to his enemies (and ours by association) who are poised to devour us (if we allow them) as we attempt to evangelize those who are open to listen.

That is why we are instructed by this *Mitzvah* to be “wise and prudent when ministering in the midst of enemies,” but why are we also to be harmless as sheep? It is because those who pose a danger provoke their enemies to respond in kind, while those who pose no threat are more likely to be left unmolested and free to accomplish what they were sent to do.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

N01 Loving Our Neighbor, the Stranger, and Even Our Enemy