

Loft Underground
Crave - Week Four
Socially Acceptable Addictions

The loft is in Matthew 10: 16-22 this week. Jesus sends out his disciples into the world and these are the instructions that Jesus gives.

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

In your own words, what does it mean to be as “shrewd as a snake and as innocent as a dove”?

Serpents and doves are Biblical symbols – take a look at some of their Biblical history and describe what the serpent or dove means in the references below.

-Genesis 3: 1-8

-Numbers 21: 4-9

-Genesis 8: 6-12

-Psalm 55: 1-7

Describe a time where you have been in an environment that required you to be innocent, yet wise. What was the situation?

In the loft's series, Crave, we have been talking about the addictive nature of our culture. Below are examples of what we might call 'socially acceptable addictions'. Describe each below as you see it in your life. Why might it be socially acceptable?

-Over-eating

-Workaholism

-Perfectionism

-Consumerism

Now, the four Bible references below are designed to shed God's light on the above addictions. Write beside the reference how God's word is trying to keep us as innocent as a dove.

-Matthew 6:11

-Exodus 31:15

-2 Samuel 22:31

-Luke 12:18

Finally, the words of Jesus about being wise and innocent are given to the disciples as they are sent. Spend a moment in prayer and write down below where you believe God may be sending you.

Where or to whom is it?

How do you imagine you would have to be wise as a serpent and innocent as a dove?