

having none of them but of having them in their proper place. Of having them in a distorted way which has ruined the life and activity and work of so many a man who should be an effective servant of the Lord.

If the salt have lost its savor (saltiness), it is good for nothing but to be thrown out as he said. But there is a parallel to this, comparing to the snake. The snake (the NIV changes that word wise to shrew) Shrew as snakes instead of wise as serpents. I'm not sure whether shrew is better in that connection. Certainly none of us think of a serpent as having any true wisdom at all. It is a figure in the sense perhaps more of ~~shrewness~~ Shrewdness. But it gets the point of this to be like the serpent in this regard is to be like the light of the world. I think that it points to our activity for the Lord. How many of us put the lamp under a bowl or bushel, instead of finding ways to light it and have it shine out. God does not want us to get proud of what we have accomplished and think we are something big, but he does want us to use every means possible to get the Word out. He wants us to step out and present the Word in a way that will be effective.

We have graduates that would go into a town and they start preaching in a little church and they give good Christian truth and have a little group of people gathered around them who get the truth and are truly blessed by them but most of the people never hear of them. And there are others who get out and find ways of getting the whole community to know of their existence and people to come and listen to them and hear the Word of God. God wants us to get the light in a way that will reach people for Christ and He wants us to plan and find ways.

I heard Dr. Newman in this very place not long ago dealing with the parable of the unwise steward which at first sight is very hard to understand. How this wicked man defrauding his employees would be praised by the Lord. But the Lord said that the men of this age are wiser in their generation than the children of light. God does not want us to do that which is wrong, that which is tainted. No he wants us to be like the dove, to be pure, to be truly the salt of the earth. But he does want us to get the light out. He wants us to find ways that the light will be heard, will be recognized, will effect people. He wants us to spread the Word of God and find ways to do it. He wants us to be shrewd like the serpents in the ways of thinking over aspects of our lives. Thinking of where you want to be 10 years from now, where you want to be 20 years from now. What are you failing to do today that you will wish then that you had done. What are you neglecting to do today that you will wish 20 years from now you had worked on and had developed, you had worked out. What are you the ways in which you can now plan your life in which it will accomplish the utmost for him. You cannot plan it in detail. Some of you will want to do certain things and will fail at them and will find other aspects where you can truly accomplish for God.

You will have to see how you can work out the different aspects, but Oh how much difference it makes in so many different lines, how well you today get the habit of making your time count. The habit of living with the Lord in every aspect of your life and in every step of your activities and every point at which you endeavor to serve Him effectively. How important it is that we keep ourselves unspotted from the world, that we keep pure from the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and pride of life. But that we plan how we are going to be effective for Christ in days to come. May God give us all the determination and wisdom and above all the purity to preserve the salt, to keep it pure and clean while we send out the light and effectively represent our Lord.