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Shrewdness

Compiled by Kirk Irwin

Scripture:

Luke 10:30-35
Matthew 10:16

Definition:

1. Characterized by keen awareness, sharp intelligence, and often a sense of the practical.
2. Disposed to artful and cunning practices; tricky.
3. Sharp; penetrating; *a shrewd wind*.

Quote:

“To some extent, Jesus posed the priest and Levite with a moral dilemma – they had to choose between competing biblical demands. Is it more important to strictly adhere to the ceremonial laws or to help a fellow human being made in the image of God? Their choice in this matter would reveal a lot about their true understanding of the Law – and even more about the condition of their hearts.”

Downs, page 92

Questions

Do you experience this type of “competition” in your heart? If so, how? How have you responded when you’ve come upon a moment like this? Is there a principle we can learn from your experience?

Quote:

“Practice is no easier than belief. I’m supposed to be *in* the world but not *of* the world. How exactly do I do both at the same time? I’m suppose to give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s. That’s easy to apply when you have to pay taxes, but not when you’ve been drafted to go to Vietnam.”

Downs, page 93

“Because maintaining a balance is so tiring, most people who find themselves on a tightrope instinctively look for the best direction to fall.”

Downs, page 93

“Shrewdness without innocence easily degenerates into cheap craftiness or cunning – but innocence without shrewdness becomes ignorance, foolishness, and naiveté.”

Downs, page 94

“How can I show through my words and my actions that I respect what is right in the sight of other people, and yet still seek to persuade them?”

Downs, page 100