

## WisDumb, Part 6 “Subtlety”

#7. Subtilty (confusing because all we’ve seen is the bad side)

Genesis 3:1 “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field.”

II Corinthians 11:3 “As the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

1. Satan and the world operate in a negative, perverse form of subtilty (Matthew 26:4 / Acts 13:10)
2. God called us to operate in a positive, pure form of subtilty.

Matthew 10:16 “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. Be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

Dictionary: fine or delicate in meaning or intent  
- difficult to perceive or understand  
- mysterious

Subtilty (Hebrew)  
- Trickery  
- Guile  
- Wiley (craftiness, cunning, stratagem)

Example: Wiley Coyote – constantly scheming for harm  
(subtilty in a negative form)  
Road runner – prudent (subtilty in positive form)  
Proverbs 22:3 (NLT)

II Kings 10:1-36 (ref) Jehu (son of Jehoshaphat, king of Israel)

- II Kings 9:7 ... smite the house of Ahab (Elijah’s prophecy)
- Worship to Baal / offerings to Baal

Vs. 19 – (NLT) “But his cunning plan was to destroy all the worshipers of Baal.”

(KJV) “But Jehu did it in subtilty, to the intent that he might destroy the worshipers of Baal.”

Vs. 30 – The Lord commended Jehu and blessed him generationally.

How do we reach .... for Christ?  
How can we outsmart (subtilty) the devil?

**Subtilty**

- Chameleon-like – sees evil coming and avoids it.
- Able to adapt to its surroundings

Example: Paul – I Corinthians 9:19-23 (NLT)  
 Paul adapted to his surroundings to reach people.  
 He didn't adapt to be accepted and loved (hypocrisy)

Skillful in avoiding trouble

Example: Acts 17:1-15 (ref)  
 Paul and believers see danger coming and escape.  
 Acts 17:16-34 (ref)  
 Paul adapts to surroundings in Athens and preaches Jesus.

Example: King David (I Samuel 21:1-14) (ref)  
 David comes before King Achish of Gath.  
 Pretends to be insane.  
 Escapes evil and certain death from Saul.  
 Escapes certain death from King Achish – pretends to be insane.

Subtily keeps from walking into traps.  
 I Samuel 22:1 “David therefore departed thence and escaped to the cave of Adullam.”

Extra notes:  
 Shrewd Luke 16:8 (NLT) parable of the shrewd manager  
 Astute or sharp in practical matters.  
 Keen / artful / canny / savvy

Lesson: use worldly possessions for eternal purposes.