



## Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

### Monthly Message for the Consecrated

January 2023

## Acquiring wisdom

*"For wisdom will not enter into a malicious soul, nor dwell in a body subject to sins."*

(Wisdom 1:4)

*"And through nations conveys herself into holy souls, she makes the friends of God and prophets." (Wisdom 7:27)*

Wisdom is understanding, enlightenment and intelligence.

The servant is in great need to acquire wisdom (in interactions - in relationships - in education)

Christ is the Person of Wisdom, and in Him are all the treasures of wisdom.

### Examples of wisdom we need in our service: -

#### 1- Wisdom in interactions:

Sometimes we are blamed for the firmness in interactions and sometimes we are blamed for the excessive kindness and the servant stands confused saying, "When I am firm, they blame me, and when I am lenient, they also blame me."

The truth is that dealing with each situation requires wisdom from the servant, as not all situations need firmness, and not all of them need lenience.

The father in the parable of the prodigal son, if he had taken pity on his son and sent to him aid and assistance, the son would have stayed away and would not have returned to his father's bosom, here is wisdom and understanding as the book of Revelation says.

## **2- Wisdom in replying:**

We are often asked about private things in our lives or our service and we don't want to tell about them. So, we are forced to answer against our will or lie in order not to answer.

Our Lord Christ gives us a beautiful example of the wisdom of responding to something He does not want to speak about, and at the same time He cannot lie when the Pharisees *“said to Him, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?” But Jesus answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one question; then answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John—was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me..... And Jesus answered and said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”*(Mark 11:28-31)

## **3- The wisdom of choosing the time and method:**

*“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.”*(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Why did Christ incarnate after 5500 years and did not save Adam immediately after the fall? This is God's wisdom in choosing the right timing for the work of salvation.

Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke to the Samaritan woman, the sinful woman, and the thief in a way that differed from His words with the scribes and Pharisees, each one has a way, and as one of fathers says, the servant is like the thief in the diversity and multiplicity of keys that he has. Just as the thief has many keys and tries one after one until he finds the right key that opens, likewise, a wise servant must have multiple keys to enter every human being, for not everyone is like another.

#### **4- Wisdom in conduct:**

*Our teacher James says, "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. The wiseman walks scrupulously in his life." (James 3:13)*

*"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise" (Ephesians 5:15)*

#### **Behaving wisely shows in:**

(a) Concern for the salvation of my soul while in ministry, *"lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."*

(B) Walking in fear *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."*

(C) Taking advantage of my time *"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."*

## **5- Wisdom in winning souls:**

Our teacher Paul says, *"Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."*(Colossians 1:28)

And St. John Chrysostom says, *"Jealousy for the salvation of souls is better in the eyes of God than performing miracles."*

Wisdom is that you always know the purpose of your service, which is to win souls, not to make them stumble.

### **How to acquire wisdom:**

Wisdom declares itself to all: *"Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares."*(Proverbs 1:20).

Wisdom does not come to those who think they are wise. *"But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise."*(1Corinthians 1:27)

Wisdom requested directly from God: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God."*  
(James 1:5)

Wisdom requires purity and cleanliness: *"For wisdom will not enter into a malicious soul, nor dwell in a body subject to sins."*(Wisdom 1:4)

*"And through nations conveys herself into holy souls, she makes the friends of God and prophets."*(Wisdom 7:27)