

“False Teachers -> Jude”

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Scripture

Matthew 7:15-20

“Beware of the false prophets, **who come to you in sheep's clothing**, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

"You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?

"So, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

"Every tree that does not bear good fruit **is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

"So then, **you will know them by their fruits.**"

The Surety of False Teachers

Matthew 7:15

“Beware of the false prophets”

Jesus tells us to beware of the false prophets so we know they will be around

Peter, some years later, agrees:

2 Peter 2:1

“But false prophets also arose among the people, **just as there will also be false teachers among you...**”

We know they will be around.

Why? -> Because we know who their Daddy is!

2 Corinthians 11:12-15

“But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. **For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ**. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore, it is **not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness**, whose end will be according to their deeds.”

The Characteristics of False Teachers

Matthew 7:15

“...**who come to you in sheep's clothing...** but inwardly are ravenous wolves”

They look like us! They dress like us! They seem to act like us...

Yet, Jesus says that on the inside, they are ravenous wolves.

What do wolves eat?

Wolves eat sheep, right?

1 Peter 5:8

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

They consume the sheep, seek to devour their faith.

They try to keep your focus off the Lord and on to earthly items.

Matthew 7:16-18

"**You will know them by their fruits.** Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?"

"So, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

2 Peter 2:2

“Many will **follow their sensuality**, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and **in their greed they will exploit you with false words**”

False teachers have two main personal qualities:

Sensuality

They pursue the lusts of the flesh:

1 John 2:15-17

“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

Lust of the Flesh: Loving sin, rebellious, and in opposition to God's commands for their life

Lust of the Eyes: Focusing on sensuality, sexual pleasures, beauty, what they could get for themselves
→ Eve saw the tree as a "delight to the eyes"

Boastful Pride: Haughtiness, always seeking to impress other people, arrogance

They are out for themselves and not the flock, unlike Jesus:

John 10:11-14

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. "He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. "He flees **because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.** "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me"

Greed

"...in their greed they will exploit you with false words"

They have the love of money and personally pursue money. Money is always part of the conversation

Peter says they are hucksters, making up stories for false gain. **They want LESS transparency.**

For example, they create missionary needs that do not truly exist, collecting funds for causes but shave money off the top for themselves.

They want less eyes on their activities -> **Contrast to Paul on the 2nd Missionary journey collections**

1 Timothy 6:6-10

"**Godliness is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.** For **we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.** If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. **For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith** and pierced themselves with many griefs."

False teachers have little contentment in what they have -> **they seek more ill-gotten gain**

"because of them the way of the truth will be maligned"

Not surprisingly, when Paul writes about the qualification of elders, he stresses these two areas:

1 Timothy 3:1-3

"If any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, **prudent, respectable,** hospitable, able to teach, **not addicted to wine or pugnacious,** but gentle, peaceable, **free from the love of money.**"

Prudent means "to be self-controlled" -> sober in the KJV -> **never out of control with their desires**

It's a clear definition against the false teachers who are not prudent and do love money and possessions.

Peter also writes about what **true pastor-elder-shepherds** do and encourages:

1 Peter 5:1-4

"I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, **shepherd the flock of God among you**, exercising oversight **not under compulsion, but voluntarily**, according to the will of God; **and not for sordid gain**, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but **proving to be examples to the flock**. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

The elder shepherd is a calling with gentle guidance, not a dominating lordship over the flock

The true shepherd is not in it for the money, not for sordid gain.

They shepherd the flock voluntarily, out of love for the sheep

In this way, they prove to be examples for the flock, the model by which the sheep can base their lives

The Message of False Teachers

2 Peter 2:1

"...who will **secretly introduce destructive heresies**, even denying the Master who bought them"

Heresy: "belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religious especially Christian doctrine"

An opinion profoundly at odds with what is generally accepted...

Have you listened to a sermon or bible study and thought to yourself, "that doesn't quite sound right?"

"destructive heresies" -> "a self-designed teaching that leads to divisions and factions"

They **secretly** introduce these teachings -> "introduce by stealth"

These are slight twists to the truth -> it sounds good, but it contains hidden poison

"even denying the Master who bought them"

The Greek word "master" is *despotes* -> "properly, **an authority figure** who exercises complete jurisdiction"

False teachers pervert the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

How?

They talk at great length about His work as Savior but deny His Lordship

Peter says that Jesus "**bought them**" -> out of slavery

They personally deny the Lord in their own life and then lead those who follow them to do the same

They say “**you do not have to repent** because Jesus did all the work for us”...

Repent literally means “to change your mind” -> you do not control your own life, the Lord does

John the Baptist said “Repent”

Matthew 3:1-2

“John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”

Jesus said “Repent”

Matthew 4:17

“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”

Paul talked about true belief in the Lord:

Romans 10:9

“**If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord**, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”

If your belief does not include Jesus being Lord of your life having authority over your life, it is a heresy -> a lie.

The Downfall of False Teachers

Jude 17-19

“But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, **following after their own ungodly lusts.**” These are the **ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.**”

They do not have the Holy Spirit and their ungodly lusts will bring them down, in time.

The Destruction of False Teachers

Matthew 7:19

“Every tree that does not bear good fruit **is cut down and thrown into the fire.**”

2 Peter 2:1

“...bringing swift destruction upon themselves...”

Their end is the grave, and an eternal destiny with their father in the pit.

Prayer & Benediction