



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – November 13, 2022

Heart to Heart...

Peter writes: *"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves."* (II Peter 2:1) Peter compares the false prophets of old calling them false teachers of today. Our airwaves, books and radio are filled with false teachers and the majority can't recognize them. There is little foundation for some to know what to look for or know what to stand on. It sounds reasonable what they hear or read, and they draw their conclusion or adopt their *"religious phrases."*

The prophets not only could tell the future but also instruct to what the will of God wants in a person's life. Prophets would consult God, interpret events of the day, and explain what people needed to do to avoid getting caught on the wrong side. Just look carefully at Deuteronomy 18: 20-22 where the Lord told His people how you can know a false prophet. False prophets took the events of the day, twisted them to their own ideas and likings born out of their opinions and interpretations and spoke like they were speaking the word of the Lord.

Seeing we don't have prophets today, just as we don't have apostles (if someone calls themselves an apostle, that is one of the biggest lies as an apostle MUST have been with and seen Jesus, witnessing His resurrection Acts 1:21-22).

False teachers are a little different. They take the Scriptures, twisting the things of God into their own ideas and interpretations. Peter says they will *"secretly introduce destructive heresies."* Heresy is a self-willed opinion substituted for the teachings of truth. They have their own agenda to promote. The worse part is this: *"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 word; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep."* (II Peter 2:2-3) How many were misled to grumble and complain at the teachings of those Old Testament false prophets? How many were ultimately destroyed? The same with false teachers today.

Jesus warned His disciples: ***“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.”*** (Matthew 7:15-16) What does *“by their fruits”* mean? Look no further than the product produced in people’s lives. Their destructive teachings only create difficulties in the lives of others. Trying to excite people, to promote humanism and keep people dependent upon their teachings. That’s their fruit. You can’t always recognize them by the way they live as many live decent lives, but the product of their teachings has a great effect in the lives of others.

How do we recognize the false teachers? In reality, how do they line up with the truth in God’s word and what it produces in lives. The result of Spirit-filled teaching will produce in our lives: *“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”* (Galatians 5:22-23) The teaching from God will give one insight to His wisdom: *“pure, peaceable, gentle reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.”* (James 3:17) Just listen carefully if they are truly proclaiming the truth of God’s word and examine the fruit of what they are teaching. Remember, we need to beware of false teachers because we could easily fall under their falsehood. Examine the truth. Listen carefully to the Lord and His teachings which He gave to His apostles. Think about it!!!

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