**False Teachers and False Prophets**

Purpose: to show the nature of false prophets and teachers and to warn against them.

I want to begin with a statement of fact: in these last days, there **are** false prophets and false teachers.

2Peter 2:1-3

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

So, here are two important questions to consider:

What is a false prophet?

A person who speaks falsely on God’s behalf – they claim to hear from God when they have not.

Jeremiah 14:14

And the LORD said to me, “The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Matthew 7:15

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

What is a false teacher?

A person who teaches that which is false – that is, contrary to sound doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:3,4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves **teachers**; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Titus 1:10,11

For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, **teaching** things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

Jude 1:4

For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

How to recognise a false teacher or false prophet:

They take advantage of the weak

2Timothy 3:6

For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women…

Matthew 23:14

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

They are led away by various lusts

2 Timothy 3:6

…Loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,

They never come to the truth

2 Timothy 3:7

**…**always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

They resist the truth

2 Timothy 3:8

Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth…

Exodus 7:11,12

But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods.

They have corrupt minds

2 Timothy 3:8

… men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith…

1 Timothy 6:3-5

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

They deceive…

Matthew 24:11

Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

They can show signs and wonders…

Mark 13:22

For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

They look like sheep…

Matthew 7:15

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

They sneak around…

Galatians 2:4

And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage) …

You will know them by their fruit…

Matthew 7:16-20

You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad f. ruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Be warned:

* They are here today!
* Their teachings are affecting our families, targeting our children and will give you problems!

Don’t be deceived by them!

* False prophecy will disappoint you (when the money/healing/wedding does not come)
* False teaching will hurt you (the way you raise your children, relate in marriage, acquire self-esteem)