

Deceivers & the Deceived

Sermon on the Mount Series – Part 19

Scripture text – Matthew 7:15-23

Introduction

- We hate being lied to or deceived, but sometimes we let our _____ down when it comes to spiritual matters.
- Jesus' main point is to _____:
 - 1) For _____
 - 2) For our tendency to _____ - _____.

The Deceivers

- Broadly speaking, a “prophet” is someone who speaks _____ to others.
- A “false prophet” is one who _____ to do that, but _____. Typically, their failure is _____.
- Today, the influence of false prophets is magnified by _____ and other forms of _____.
- What makes false prophets so dangerous is that they _____ & _____ so good.
- It's not necessarily what a false prophet says, but what he _____ say.
- 4 things false prophets don't talk about:
 - 1) The _____ of God.
 - 2) Man's _____ & fallen _____.
 - 3) God's _____ and the eternal conscious suffering of the _____.
 - 4) The necessity of _____.

Spotting a False Prophet

- Recognizing a false prophet requires careful _____ over _____.

continued on reverse side

- 2 things to observe & evaluate:
 - 1) Their _____ & personal _____.
 - 2) Their actual _____. It must be in accord with the teaching of the _____!

The Deceived

- In verse 21, the focus shifts from false prophets to false _____
-- i.e., persons whose profession of faith in Christ as Savior & Lord is not accompanied by _____ to him.
- A profession may be _____, _____,
_____ and _____, and still be rejected by Christ.
- A brief history lesson:
 - 1) The 1800's may have been the American Protestant church's _____
hour as virtually every local congregation became highly motivated to fulfill the _____.
 - 2) The 1900's may have been the American Protestant church's _____
hour as churches began to adopt techniques that encouraged quick, emotional and ultimately _____ professions of faith.
- A clear, unqualified & public profession of faith in Christ is important and _____.
But it's spurious if not accompanied by _____ to Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Have I "tested" the preachers/teachers I listen to, watch or read?
2. Is my profession of Christ real or spurious? What is the evidence of that?

Who's Who in Today's Message

- Joel Osteen (1963-): Called "America's Pastor" and a strong proponent of Prosperity Theology.
- Charles Finney (1792-1875): An evangelist who pioneered numerous techniques to encourage people to make a "decision" for Christ. At the end of his life, he expressed regret that his methods tended to produce inauthentic believers. And yet, his methods are still practiced.
- Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892): Widely considered the greatest preacher since the Reformation and an opponent of Finney's theology and methods.