

We Have Been Taught Not to Discern - Part 4

by Andrew Strom

Andrew Strom's sermon addresses the pervasive deception in the church, particularly the dangers of the prosperity gospel, and calls for courageous truth-telling among believers.

Duration: 9:59

Scripture: Matthew 6:24, Matthew 7:15, Matthew 23:23, Luke 12:15, John 6:10, 1 Timothy 6:10, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, James 5:1-6, 1 John 4:1

Topics: "Prosperity Gospel", "Speaking Truth"

Description

This sermon addresses the housing crisis and the prevalence of deception in the church, particularly related to prosperity gospel teachings. It emphasizes the importance of standing up for truth, even when it goes against popular beliefs, and draws parallels to the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish, highlighting the power of speaking truth in times of crisis and deception.

Transcript

...anything that's going to happen except gloom and doom. He says there's going to be a terrible housing crisis and it's going to be worse than 50 years, he says. You know, I published this.

I published this three years ago. Nouriel Roubini's prediction that there's going to be a housing crisis worse than 50 years. I remember publishing it in 2006.

Why did I publish that? He's a secular guy. To me he was speaking the word of the Lord, I want to tell you that. I could tell it was just a prophecy.

Absolutely true. Totally on the button. I don't publish anything but spiritual stuff on my email list.

Why would I publish a guy like that? He's speaking the truth. He's speaking about the end of bubble America and the beginning of a correction to our spiritual lives, hopefully, praise God, as well as all the silly economic junk. Okay, verse 10.

Jesus said, make the men sit down. So there was much grass in the place so the men sat down. The number about 5,000.

And Jesus took the loaves and when he'd given thanks he distributed to the disciples and the disciples to them that would sit down and likewise the fishers, as many as they would. When they were filled, he said

unto his disciples, gather the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. They gathered them together and filled twelve baskets with the fragments that five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto those that had eaten.

So, a lot of us, we think that the crisis is so bad that Jesus doesn't have an answer to this crisis. I have had people writing to me, see I've been writing about the worldwide crisis lately and saying, do you know what, the church worldwide is being overrun with deception and falsehood on a scale I don't believe has ever been seen in history. I was just in Uganda, I go to Nigeria, all the time I want to tell you Africa is being utterly overrun with the worst kind of prosperity gospel and I tell them this openly, I say, Dallas, Texas and Tulsa, Oklahoma would be utterly ashamed of what you guys are doing.

We have never seen in this country anything matching the way Nigerians take up offerings. I've seen them basically prophesying to their money, they're taught to do this, they prophesy to their money during the offering time, that it will bring back a return unto them. I say, what's the difference between that and witchcraft? Isn't that what witchcraft is? You prophesy, you seek forth something to get something back.

Isn't that just what you guys used to do in the witchcraft days? They have the most horrendous, they have the classic, you know, God's telling me that there's 21 people here with \$700, you know, the first 21 people up here giving this \$700 are going to be molested beyond recognition and all of that. They have it night and day, going on everywhere, day in, day out. They have far worse than that.

They prophesy over people that they'll give them, give the preacher money. And I thought that Nigeria was unique and on my trip to Uganda I found that in the major cities of Africa where God has been moving, in all the revival countries, this type of garbage, this type of sickness is taking such a hold that it places it's hard to find preachers that are against it or that are not into it. Especially in the cities.

And as television is spreading out into the countryside, the garbage spreads with it because most of the garbage is on TV. And what they're doing is they're taking your preflow dollar type of stuff and they're multiplying it by 100 and they're putting it into practice and they're practicing it on simple and poor and precious sheep. People that can hardly afford one set of clothes.

Widows and, you know, they're practicing it on those kind of people. You know, I stayed in Nigeria. I stayed with a preacher who had a large church.

The guy had two Masinis sitting in the driveway. He had a brand new Lexus. He had a plasma television about as wide as from here to there.

He had a big plasma television sitting inside his house. Where did all that money come from? That comes from poor Nigerian people. Where did they get this stuff? They got it from us.

Except America knows enough not to go so far down that road. America is not completely oblivious to the fact that Jesus spoke against money again and again. America is not oblivious to that fact.

I want to tell you, most of Nigeria thinks that God is all for money because that's all they get. The only Christian television they basically get is TBN. So if you can imagine feeding yourself from a youth on TBN every single day where all you hear is prosperity and all you hear is that kind of stuff and all you see is those offerings being taken up in these big negative industries.

I want to say that's their constant diet. That's orthodoxy to them. They don't know anything else.

It's priceless when I get in a group of pastors and I start preaching on the words of Jesus about money. I just start quoting Jesus. And you could almost watch their jaws hit the floor with shock.

What does that mean? It means, number one, they've never heard anybody preach on the words of Jesus before. Prosperity preachers mostly don't ever preach on the words of Jesus, do they? Why? Because he's always preaching against money. Always.

From the Sermon on the Mount onwards, you can't hardly find a parable where he's not preaching against the kind of stuff that prosperity preachers stand for. When I start just going into that, you know, let's just open the Bible and just start reading the words in red, you know, let's get into it a little bit. It's like jaw-droppingly shocking to these guys.

And to many Americans too, sadly. You know, you can almost say these words, I hesitate to say them because in one other sense they're not true. But here's the fact, that the devil is slowly or quickly taking over the church.

The devil's word is dominating the church. The devil's word is succeeding. All of the righteous preachers are usually too poor to compete.

When you're gathering millions and millions of dollars. You know, I know of guys that have gone into Lagos, Nigeria and spent over a million dollars on the crusade there, in a poor country. You don't need to spend that, except for the fact that, why are they spending it? Because they're paying off so many pastors.

Pastors now expect to get huge gifts, sometimes cars, often suits, just to come to meetings and bring their people to meetings. I won't bore you with other horror stories, I mean it just goes on and on and on. I thought Nigeria was unique, but I've learnt it's not unique.

The same stuff is happening all through the third world, all through South America, Central America, Brazil they say is awful. I haven't been to Brazil yet. I'm due to go down to South and Central America this coming year, so hopefully I'll get to see and evaluate what's going on.

Now why does this matter to us? Because here, one little lad, it says, has five loaves and a couple of fishes, and look what Jesus does. And we take this as a spiritual example for a moment, and talk about bread as being the word of the Lord. The word of the Lord coming forth.

You know, even in a famine, even when there is nothing left and everybody looks around and says, we've had it. The preachers are gone. We're heading down this road of Wales again, it's going to be a disaster, America's going to turn into that.

I want to say to you, isn't there people in this room who know the truth? Isn't there people in this room who are basically that little lad with his five loaves? And we say, oh yeah, but I'm too small, I can't match with those guys. I say, yes, you can. You can match with the guys.

Why? Because you have truth in your mouth. And all that's ever historically happened, when God moves, is for a few simple people to stand up and daringly start speaking truth. And it's nothing more extravagant than that.

The problem with it is, is it takes quite tremendous courage. Because why? You're standing against the big guys. It takes a lot of courage.

Because even in your church, let's say, or wherever you come from, the group that you hang out with, these lies have been imbibed and you start standing up and saying just a few words, just pointing out a few very basic truths, just to quote the words of Jesus for a while. It's going to cause some real ructions in the church. It's really going to give you some persecution for a while.

You might find yourself getting the right boot or the left boot of fellowship.

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