

Fruit not Gift

by Zac Poonen

This sermon emphasizes the importance of discerning the voice of false shepherds, highlighting the need to focus on holiness, humility, and overcoming sin rather than being deceived by false miracles or teachings. It stresses the significance of recognizing true prophets by their fruit rather than their gifts, and the warning against those who seek personal gain or preach contrary to the teachings of Jesus and the apostles.

Scripture: 1 John 4:1, Matthew 7:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 1 John 2:18, Matthew 1:21

Topics: "Discernment", "True vs. False Teachings"

Description

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Transcript

Do you know that Jesus spoke to 5,000 people without a mic? I've always wondered how he did that. He must have had a very powerful voice. These are the little things we don't think about when we read the Bible.

Do you know what 5,000 people means? It's ten times the size of this hall. And it was actually more than 5,000, it was 10,000 perhaps, because 5,000 were just the men. And do you remember on the day of Pentecost when 3,000 people were converted? So how many people do you think were there listening to it? There may have been 10,000 there also.

So Peter also had a very powerful voice. But we are all such weaklings compared to those early apostles. Anyway, more important is to discern the voice of false shepherds.

I said in the morning how we would never allow a deceiver to speak to our children. So why does a loving father allow deceivers to come into the midst of God's people? The devil is pictured in the Bible like a lion and like a snake. The lion speaks about strength and power.

That is one way he troubles the church with persecution. But in the history of Christianity, persecution has never destroyed the church. In the first 300 years of Christianity, God allowed tremendous persecution of

Christians.

And wherever there was persecution, there was a pure church. If a person becomes a Christian in a country where there is tremendous hatred for Christians, like a communist country or a Muslim country, where you become a Christian and they may kill you, you can be sure that such Christians are very strong Christians. A Christian who is really converted in such countries, such people, when they come together, can be a very strong church.

But in India, generally speaking, we have no persecution, particularly in South India. And so, it doesn't really cost us much to be a Christian or to come to a meeting. We can't say the devil comes like a lion in Tamil Nadu.

When you hear of Christians being killed or persecuted in Tamil Nadu for standing up for Jesus Christ, that is happening maybe in China today. So there are some strong Christians there. So Satan has come into Tamil Nadu not as a lion.

Because the church has become strong here. And his aim is to weaken the church. And he has seen through the years that coming like a lion never weakens the church.

We may think, oh we are so lucky that we don't have any persecution in Tamil Nadu. But that's why we have such poor quality Christians. And that's why we have so many preachers in Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Kerala, who are only interested in making money.

You won't find one preacher like that in the house churches in China. They don't preach to collect money there. So you see, that's the advantage of persecution.

But here the devil comes like a snake. With deception. And through deception he corrupts Christians and leads people astray.

Why does God allow that? Because that is how his children can have discernment and sharpen their senses. See a few verses, first of all in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2. This is something that is going to happen in the days just before the arrival of the Antichrist. He is speaking about verse 1 about the coming of our Lord Jesus and our gathering together for him.

In verse 3 it speaks about the Antichrist as the man of lawlessness and the son of destruction. And Satan is going to work along with him, we read in verse 9, with power and signs and false wonders. With all the deception of wickedness for those who perish because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

And now see the reason. For this reason, verse 11, God himself will send a deceiving influence so that people believe what is false. Just think of that statement for a moment.

Will a father allow his children to believe what is false? How many of you fathers and mothers will allow your children to believe what is false? Will you allow a deceiving influence to come to your children so that they get deceived and believe a lie? Why does God do it? Because God is trying to find out who really wants him for himself. Not who wants him because they want some blessing. There are believers who seek God for his blessing.

Who pray only when they want something. Who ask for prayer when they are sick or when they are in need. How many of you believe in spending time with Jesus when you want nothing? You know when a very happy married couple live together.

They talk to each other not because they want something. Our relationship with Jesus is like that of a wife to a husband. A girl who is engaged to be married to a man.

The marriage will take place when Jesus returns. But now we are supposed to be like a girl who is engaged to be married. Now when you look at the reason why a girl wants to marry a man.

Many of you are parents who have probably arranged a marriage for your daughter. Many of you are parents who have probably arranged a marriage for your daughter. What is the most important thing you can expect from a man who is going to marry your daughter? Whether you are a believer or a non-believer, you should expect a man who can earn a lot of money.

You should expect a man who is educated enough to take care of your daughter's life. You should expect a man who is educated enough to take care of your daughter's life. You should expect a man who is spiritual.

Even when you are looking for a wife for your son. Even when you are looking for a wife for your son. You should expect a man who is educated enough to take care of your daughter's life.

This is the main reason for so many unhappy marriages. Because they are looking for the wrong thing. I am also a father.

I have four sons. All of them are married. And I can stand before God and say something.

I was not interested one bit to find out if the girl's parents had any money at all. I was not interested one bit to find out if the girl's parents had any money at all. I didn't even know who their parents were.

I didn't care if they had money or not. I didn't care if the girl was well educated or not. Does she love Jesus? Does she want to live for the Lord? That's the only thing I look for.

So all my four sons have got very happy marriages. And they will bring up their children in the same way. I would recommend that to you.

I am applying that to our marriage to Jesus. Do you want to marry Jesus because of what you can get from him? That is the way to an unhappy marriage with Jesus. You know a girl who wants to marry a man because I can get something from him.

Those are the people whom the devil can deceive very easily. What can I get from the Lord? That's not the right way to get married to Jesus Christ. So God allows such people to be deceived.

And I tell everyone sitting here. If you love Jesus because he gave his life for you. And you say, Lord I want nothing from you.

I don't want healing. I don't want answers to prayer. I don't want money.

I don't want you to answer a single prayer of mine. I love you because you love me and gave yourself for me. That is how I gave my life to Jesus 55 years ago.

I said, Lord I don't care whether I go to heaven or hell. It makes no difference to me. I want to be with you wherever you are.

And I don't care if you don't answer one prayer of mine in my whole life. I am not like a girl marrying a man for his money. I will not be like that.

I am not going to marry a man because he has a very high position and power. That is the secret of a happy marriage with Jesus Christ. And now my relationship with Jesus has been for 55 years.

I am an extremely happy person today. I have zero complaints about my Christian life. And the Lord has protected me from so much of deception going on in Christianity.

Wrong attitudes to money among preachers. Wrong teachings. Because I did not come to the Lord for anything for myself.

So if you want to recognize the voice of the shepherd from my other voices. Ask yourself why you have become a Christian. Why have you given yourself to Jesus Christ? Supposing from today.

The Lord says I will never answer any prayer of yours from today. You ask and I will not answer. But I love you, that's enough.

And I want you to love me. And I want you to give all that you have to me. And I will give nothing to you.

Will you follow Jesus? I will say yes. You know why? I will say Lord you already gave yourself to me on the cross, why do I want anymore? It's like, this is the way I look at Jesus. When I was a desperately poor man.

This wonderful person. Gave me 100 crores of rupees. Cleared my debt.

A man who has given me 100 crores of rupees as a gift. Will I again go to him and ask for money? Give me 100 rupees, give me 1000 rupees. Never.

He has already given me 100 crores. You will feel ashamed. To go to an earthly man.

Who has given you 100 crores and again ask for money like a beggar. I will tell him that such a man. You have already given me so much, I don't want anymore.

That's how I go to Jesus. Lord I don't want anything from you. You gave me more than 100 crores when you gave your body for me on the cross.

That is the problem with many Christians. They have not appreciated what Jesus gave for them on the cross of Calvary. They sing about it, they talk about it, but they haven't appreciated.

For me, that is the central thing that Jesus did for me. Many people talk about the Lord healed my sickness. The Lord provided my needs.

He saved me out of some difficult situation. You know what my testimony is? He died for me on the cross. He died for me on the cross of Calvary.

He gave his son to me. Along with that, if you look at anything else. It is equivalent to a sand.

Even if he heals me from 100 different diseases. And provides me 1 lakh rupees every month. It will be like a grain of sand compared to what he did for me on the cross.

Have you seen Jesus like this? I tell you, you will never be deceived in your whole life. It is in a love relationship with Jesus Christ that we are protected from deception. If you keep going to Jesus only to get things and get things and get things.

And all your testimony is, God answered this prayer and that prayer. And the other thing and the other thing for me and my children. If that child does the same, You will never be able to recognize the voice of the shepherd.

Like it is read in 2 Thessalonians 2, When miracles and signs happen there, you will be deceived. In the last days, the devil will do false miracles. So when someone does a miracle, is it a miracle of Jesus or a miracle of the devil? How can you find out? You say he does it in the name of Jesus.

I will show you Matthew chapter 7. Where Jesus himself warned us. Matthew chapter 7, He said in verse 15, beware of false prophets. They come in sheep's clothing, but they are ravenous wolves.

Do you know what sheep's clothing means? Sheep's clothing means correct doctrine. A wolf represents the devil and a sheep is a picture of Christ's followers. So when they come in sheep's clothing, they look like the disciples of Jesus.

But when they speak, it is the voice of a wolf. So if you only look at his doctrine, He is talking about Jesus. He believes that Jesus died for the sins of the world.

And he preaches in the name of Jesus. So whatever he does must be from God. But he is a wolf inside.

So when a wolf dresses up like a sheep, Think of a real wolf dressing up like a sheep. And he is trying to go inside the sheep fold with the other sheep. Why do you think he is going there? Do you think he is going there to bless the sheep? No, not at all.

He is trying to deceive the sheep so that he can bite and eat them. He knows that if he comes like a wolf, the sheep will run away. So he puts on the sheep's clothing, Looks like a sheep.

But his aim is to grab something from the sheep's body and eat it. Whereas a real sheep is not there to bite and eat something from the other sheep. And a shepherd also is not really interested in getting something from the sheep or himself.

So this is the way to recognize a false prophet. It is Jesus' own words. He will come with the right doctrine.

He will not come in the name of some other religion or some other God. Because that won't be sheep's clothing. He will come in the name of Jesus.

But he will be interested in what he can get from you. Primarily your money. Second, that you should follow him and join his group.

He is not interested in blessing you. He is interested in what he can get from you. Jesus said that is the mark of a false prophet.

And Jesus said further down, It is very easy to recognize them. Verse 16, you will know them by the fruit in their life. Now the Holy Spirit gives us fruit and gifts.

Gifts are preaching, miracles, healing, those are all gifts. Fruit are love, humility, joy, things like that. Holiness.

So if you look at a person's gift, you will be deceived. If you only look at the fruit, you will be deceived. The only way to find the mark of a true prophet is as it is said in verse 16, you will know them by the fruit.

Sometimes we don't listen carefully. So he repeats it a second time in verse 20. Listen to what I am saying.

You will not know them by their gifts. You will know them by their fruit. In spite of Jesus saying that twice, and not only twice, here is a third time.

Read further down. Verse 22. In the last day, people would come to me and say, Lord, Lord, and will tell me about all the gifts that they exercise.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Prophecy, casting out demons, not one or two miracles, many miracles. And I will say to them, essentially he is saying to them, you had no fruit of the Spirit in your life.

You had no holiness in your life. There is sin in your life. He doesn't say, you are telling lies that you did miracles in my name.

Do you think these people will have the boldness to tell Jesus that they did miracles? Do you think these people will have the boldness to tell Jesus that they did miracles? I did a miracle here, I did a miracle there. Many preachers have lied to people and have deceived them. They know that we don't know how to test what they did somewhere else.

But in the end, we cannot stand before Jesus and lie to him. In verse 22, people said, that is absolutely correct. Three times it says, in your name, in your name, in your name.

Notice that. How did they preach? In Jesus' name. How did they cast out demons? In Jesus' name.

In Jesus' name. How did they do miracles? In Jesus' name. Then why does the Lord send them to hell? Now think of, this is many people mentioned in verse 22.

That's not one or two, many. Thousands. So supposing one of these people is today preaching in Chennai.

So supposing one of these people is today preaching in Chennai. And he preaches in Jesus' name. In some big place.

And he casts out demons in your presence, in Jesus' name. And in Jesus' name, does many miracles. How many of you will sit and watch that and say, well, perhaps this man may still go to hell.

Because I want to know what his attitude to money is. I want to know whether he lives in holiness with his wife. I want to know how he has brought up his children.

I want to know how he has brought up his children. Why children? Because children are the ones who know best how we live at home. Many of you are in the same church, but I tell you, you don't know how

the other brothers are living in their home.

You don't know how upright he is in his office or factory. Holiness is not in the book. When he says, you who practice sin.

Where did they practice all this sin? Not in the meeting. Nobody practices sin in the meeting. They are practicing sin in their private lives.

Thousands of people listening to them don't know. That's what Jesus exposes to them. For the third time, he is saying, it's not by their gifts, but by the fruit that you know a true prophet.

So we are trying to think in these days how to recognize the voice of the shepherd and the voice of false teachers. What do you learn from this passage? Three times, not by their gifts, but by their fruit. They may also have gifts.

Jesus had more gifts than anybody else. But that was not the important thing. It was the fruit of his life.

For how many years did Jesus have the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Only after he was baptized. Three and a half years. Before that, he never preached, he never did a miracle, he never cast out any demons.

Only from the age of 30 to 33 and a half, he did so many exercises, the gifts of the Spirit. Now, for how many years did Jesus manifest the fruit of the Spirit? Holiness, love, humility, for 33 and a half years. Now picture this in your mind and do a simple mathematical calculation.

Three and a half years of gifts, 33 and a half years of fruit. Which is more important? Fruit. How much more important? Ten times.

This is 33 years, that is three years. So that's the difference. And these things are written in the Scripture for us to understand.

There's nothing wrong in the gifts of the Spirit if it is backed up by a life full of the fruit of the Spirit. We need the gifts of the Spirit, even Jesus needed it. I sought for the gift of preaching when I was 22 years old.

Or perhaps when I was 21, I don't remember. I was baptized when I was 21. And just like Jesus, after his baptism, the Spirit came upon him.

I began to seek for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. And by the time I was 23, two years after my baptism, God gave me the gift of preaching. And by the time I was 23, I was preaching to 5,000 people.

Being invited again to speak. That was not me. It was God who gave me that gift.

I cannot take any credit for it. He's continued to give me that gift for 50 years now. But that is not the testimony of my life.

Because in those early years, I never knew about how to overcome sin. That while I was preaching, I could not have victory in my thoughts. And I knew outwardly my life was okay.

But inwardly, I didn't have victory. In my home, I would get angry. But I had great gifts to preach.

So I know from my own life, you can be defeated in your home and be a great preacher in public. And after I was born again, for many years, I was like that. And it was easy to be deceived.

And I could deceive others because people thought I was a wonderful servant of God. And if I had died at that time, I would have stood before the Lord and said, Lord, I preached in your name. I traveled to many countries and preached in your name.

And the Lord would have said to me, but your thought life was impure. At home, you were getting angry. What will I say then? I thank God I didn't die then.

God had mercy on me because a time came in my life 41 years ago, 1974, I said, Lord, I don't want to preach anymore because I am fooling people. I am preaching something that is not true in my life. Sure, I will still be a Christian, but I won't preach.

I will go and sit in the back of some church for the rest of my life. I really came to that place only for one reason. I did not want to be a hypocrite.

And I said, Lord, I ask you only for one thing. I don't want money, I don't want honor. But make my inner life equal to what I speak.

And give me another filling with the Holy Spirit. This time, not for gifts. I already have the gift of preaching.

Now I want the power of the Spirit to live a holy life. And that's how God met with me nearly 40 years ago. And that changed the direction of my life completely.

And it was 6 months after that that we started CFC in our home. And we did not start CFC to preach the gifts of the Spirit. But to preach to people that there is a life of overcoming that we can have.

That you can live a Christian life where what other people see you on the outside is exactly the same as you are on the inside and you are at home. Zero hypocrisy. Do you want that life? Then you will not be deceived.

And it is after that that I began to recognize the voice of the shepherd very clearly. And I started to understand the amazing things God has shown me from His Word. I knew the Bible thoroughly by the time I was 26.

Because I used to study it day and night, day and night, day and night. But it was not the revelation of the Holy Spirit. But when the Spirit of God saw that I wanted an equal life on the outside and inside, then the Holy Spirit began to speak to me new things from Scripture.

Then I could clearly recognize this is the voice of the shepherd. So, we are trying to understand how to recognize the voice of the shepherd from other voices. I am trying to teach you some principles.

Here is one important thing. Don't respect a man just because he has some gifts of the Spirit. Miracles, healings, it may be all deception.

Even if he does it in the name of Jesus. Much more important, is he a wolf or a sheep? Is he interested in taking something from you, your money? I will never listen to such a man again. There are so many believers who listen to the CDs and DVDs of people who are interested in their money.

Listen on the internet to people who are interested in their money. I can tell you in Jesus' name right now, you will be deceived and you will be more and more deceived. Because, you don't listen to Jesus' words that by their fruit you will know them and not by their gifts.

Three times Jesus says it and you say, Lord, forget it. I know how to take care of myself. You think you know more than the Lord.

You say, no Lord, when I see a man's gifts, I will recognize him as a man of God. When I see him casting out demons in Jesus' name, when I see him doing miracles in Jesus' name, and preaching so powerfully in Jesus' name, I will admire him as a man of God. It doesn't matter if he asks for my money.

It doesn't matter if he says, if you give me money, I will pray for you. I will give him money so that he prays for me. I will give him money so that he prays for my children.

Don't you think you are deceived? Don't you think you are insulting Jesus by saying, I don't care what you said about wolves and sheep and all that? I know you said it is by their fruit, but I see gifts and that proves it to me. I know you said that Satan will deceive people with lying false wonders. Turn with me to 1 John chapter 4. John was writing this 65 years after the day of Pentecost.

He is 95 years old now. In those days, there were so many deceivers even then. This is not now in this century.

1 John 4 verse 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit. Have you heard that? Test the spirits to see whether they are from God. If somebody uses the name of another God, you don't have to test anything.

Suppose if somebody says, I am coming in the name of X, Y or Z God. You don't have to test anything. He is not even coming in the name of Jesus.

Why even listen to him? That is definitely wrong spirit. Why does he say test the spirit? If somebody gives you a white paper and says, here is a thousand rupee note, you have to examine it with a microscope. Is it a thousand rupee note? Hello.

It must be something important. That's why the power went off. So you won't be deceived with white paper.

If somebody gives you a white paper and says it is a thousand rupee note, you won't be deceived. But if somebody gives you a paper that looks like a thousand rupee note, you have to test it only when it looks like a real thing. You take it to the bank and say, sir, can you please check is this a real thousand rupee note or not? If he says it is not a thousand rupee note, I will give it to the person who took it.

You have to examine the spirit only when he comes in the name of Jesus. Why do we have to test? whether they are from God. Because not one or two, but many false prophets have already gone out into the world.

When did this happen? He is writing to whom? Not unbelievers. Believers. And he says in verse 5, They are from the world, therefore they speak from the world.

What do you mean by they speak from the world? What is the biggest power in this world? Money. Everybody struggles for money. If they want a position as a politician or some powerful position, it is to get money.

Why do they give bribes to get some important job as a police officer? Because they are going to make a lot of money there. So all this world revolves around money. I read it like this.

They are from the world, because they are always speaking about money. And worldly people listen to them. So by money you can make out who is a false prophet.

After the Bible was written, the first book, Christian book, that is available today after the Bible, the next Christian book is a book written in the 2nd century. It is a very small book. It is called The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles.

It is not written by the apostles because they died in the 1st century. It is called The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles written in the 2nd century. That is the earliest Christian book available after the Bible.

If you go to the internet and type it out, you can get it. The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles. I got it from there.

And I copied it down. It is just 10 or 12 pages. And I will tell you what I read there and you can find it out for yourself.

In one of those pages, two marks of a false prophet. Two marks of a false prophet. One, if his life does not back up what he preaches, he is a false prophet.

Very often you don't know much about his private life so you can't find out. You know, some big preacher preaching in a Maidan, what do you know about his private life? You don't know whether his wife is his 1st wife or 3rd wife, whether he has divorced 2-3 wives before that. Then they give a 2nd test.

If he asks you for money, he is a false prophet. This is what the apostles taught. You know why? Because nobody had a Bible in the 2nd century like this.

So they can't say, hey, according to this you are not teaching correct. So, with simple believers those days, think if you didn't have a Bible, how will you find out whether this is a true prophet or not? So, the apostles gave a simple test. If he asks you for money, he is a false prophet.

Have you heard anybody say that? I tell you, I may be the 1st person you have heard preaching that. Where have you heard anybody say, if somebody asks you for money, he is a false prophet? You go to the internet and type out the teaching of the 12 apostles and see if it's not written there. And see which century it was written.

2nd century, soon after the apostle John died. Why did the apostles give such a warning? They wanted people to recognize the true prophets from the false prophets. And according to that teaching, there are so many false prophets today.

And simple believers are sitting there believing it. These are not coming from heathen religions. They are coming from within the so-called Christian church.

Where do you think the anti-Christ is found today? We need to understand what the word anti-Christ means. Is that the translation in Tamil? You see, anti is not a Tamil word. Anti is an English word which means against.

If I say I am anti-Vincent, I will never be. But if I say that, it means I am against Vincent. Anybody who is against me can be called anti-Zack.

And what does anti-Christ mean? What does anti-Christ mean? The one who is against Christ. Christ is going this way. This man is going the other way.

That is anti-Christ. Who does the opposite of what Jesus does. In many areas.

Jesus never asked for money. I will give you another example. There was a paralyzed man lying here.

He lifted him up. But today somebody will put the hands of a man and make him fall down. That is called anti- what Jesus did.

Now, most people will never call that anti-Christ. Most believers say, Holy Spirit. I don't say Holy Spirit.

I say Jesus lifted people up. This man is pushing people down. It is very clear to me.

Anti-Christ. So, if you study the life of Jesus, anything he did, people are doing the opposite of that. That is anti-Christ.

People ask me sometimes, Brother Zack, why don't you preach a message on healing the sick? I say, okay. I will tell you. You read the New Testament and show me one sermon that Jesus preached on healing the sick.

He healed thousands. But show me even one or two verses which he preached on healing the sick. Show me two verses at least where Jesus preached on healing the sick.

Okay, now show me one sermon the apostles preached on healing the sick. You read the whole New Testament. Matthew to Revelation.

You will not find one sermon that Jesus or the apostles preached on healing the sick. Every sermon they preached was on holiness. On humility.

On love. On faith. On being willing to suffer.

Those are the sermons Jesus preached. If you are not preaching what Jesus preached, that is anti-Christ. I only preach what Jesus and the apostles preached.

But because today's Christians don't read the Bible properly, they are just amazed. Because they have a great need for healing. You know the difference between Jesus and today's healers? Listen to me.

Jesus never preached one message on healing. But he healed thousands. Today's preachers preach thousands of messages on healing.

Hardly one person is genuinely healed. This is anti-Christ. Now if you don't believe me, you please read the Bible and see how many sermons Jesus preached on healing.

It's difficult to find even one verse. But I'll show you numerous verses where he spoke about holiness and faith and humility and all that. So if you don't want to be deceived, look for a preacher who is preaching the things that Jesus and the apostles preached.

That is the right way. Then I want to show you something else. Where do these anti-Christ come from? 1 John chapter 2 In 1 John chapter 2 it says 1 John chapter 2 verse 18 Children, it is the last hour.

That is 95 AD he is saying it is the last hour. Last hour? Is it like that? In English it says the last hour. That means only one hour left for Jesus to come.

Now 2014 what shall we say? I think it's the last minute. Or perhaps the last 5 seconds before Jesus comes. So it's the last hour.

You heard that anti-Christ is coming. Even now there are many anti-Christ. That's how you know it is the last hour.

1 John 2 verse 18 Many anti-Christ have already arisen at that time. That means people doing the opposite of what Christ did were doing it even then. People doing the opposite of what Christ did were doing it even then.

Where did these people come from? Did they come from some Greek religion or some Egyptian religion? Or the Roman religion? No. Verse 19 They were in our midst and they went out from us. So these anti-Christ were sitting in the church.

They were with us and they went out from us. Because they were not interested in holiness of life. They were not interested in a message of overcoming sin.

If they were interested in the message Jesus preached of overcoming sin If they were interested in the message Jesus preached of overcoming sin If they had been of us they would have remained with us. Because they would have been interested in victory over sin. Apostle John he is about the only man left who was preaching victory over sin.

he is about the only man left who was preaching victory over sin. I will be with him. Why did they leave John? All the other 10 apostles had died.

Judas Iscariot died much earlier. John was the only man living. Why did they leave him? Why did they leave John? Because you read one John.

He is preaching about holiness. He doesn't say one word about healing or speaking in tongues or anything. It's about love.

It's about obedience. It's about healing. And it's about confessing that Jesus came in my flesh.

You read it. And they left him. And John says If they had been of us they would have stayed with us.

But when they went out that was to show that they are really not part of us. Then he goes on to say verse 27 He says you got the anointing of the spirit within you also. You don't need me to come and sit there and teach all of you because I can't be all over the world.

That's what John says in verse 27. You don't need me. You got the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

And that anointing will teach you as you listen to somebody this man is after my money. That cannot be the spirit of Christ. This man is pushing people down not lifting them up.

That cannot be the spirit of Christ. This man is divorced and remarried. That cannot be the spirit of Christ.

This man says I will pray for you if you give me money. I don't ever hear Jesus saying that. This cannot be the spirit of Christ.

I don't want to judge these people. But I am not going to follow them. So I am not saying we should go around judging all these people.

He doesn't say you must judge them. He says you know from within this is not right. Stay away from false prophets.

The voice of the shepherd is the voice of Jesus Christ. And the voice of the under shepherds will sound like the voice of Jesus Christ. Jesus came for what purpose? One last verse.

Matthew chapter 1 The first time the name Jesus was used by anybody in the gospels. In the gospels. In Matthew chapter 1 When an angel came to Joseph and said to him Your wife Mary has conceived through the Holy Spirit.

Verse 20 And you must call his name Jesus. That's the first time in the New Testament that somebody speaks the name of Jesus. First time.

An angel from heaven and he says here is the meaning of that name. He will save his people from their sin. Not he will forgive their sin that is there in the Old Testament also.

But now he is going to do something more. He will save his people from their sin. He will save them from anger.

He will save them from lusting after women. He will save them from jealousy. He will save them from an unforgiving spirit.

He will save them from the love of money. He will save them from every type of sin. That is the meaning of the name of Jesus.

So when you come in the name of Jesus the preacher comes in the name of Jesus it must be to save people from their sin. Not to give them money. Not even to heal them even though healing is a good thing.

But primarily to save them from their sin. If you remember that you will never be deceived. Let's pray.

Heavenly Father Heavenly Father Save us from deception Your word is like a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Help us to walk in that light. In Jesus name.

Amen

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