

## **SOTM pt5 – Structured to Win – Beware of False Prophets**

**[Mat 7:15-20 NASB95] 15 "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 "You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn [bushes] nor figs from thistles, are they? 17 "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 "So then, you will know them by their fruits.**

- **Many voices are clamoring for our attention. Although the rise of social media is good in many respects, it has given a platform to many who should not have a platform. It has given influence to those who should not have influence.**
- **This is not a new situation. There have always been those who should not influence us but try to. We, friendly and hungry people, are often too nice and open to those folks.**
- **Jesus gives us a stark warning. He does not want us to be shipwrecked. He wants us to have good things in our lives. He wants us to win. He says, "Beware of the false prophets . . ."**
  - **Mistakes? Probably more than a mistake. [Deu 18:21-22 NASB95] 21 "You may say in your heart, 'How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' 22 "When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.**
  - **Jesus seems to deal with the internal aspect of the false prophet.**

**What should we know about false prophets?**

**Here are four thoughts about being aware of false prophets.**

- I. What should be our attitude toward false prophets?**
  - A. Beware. This is taught throughout the NT.**
  - B. [Mat 24:24-25 NASB95] 24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25 "Behold, I have told you in advance.**
  - C. [Act 20:28-31 NASB95] 28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.**
  - D. [2Co 11:13-15 NASB95] 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.**
  - E. [Col 2:8-10 NASB95] 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. 9 For in Him all**

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the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

- F. [1Ti 4:1-3 NASB95] 1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, 3 [men] who forbid marriage [and advocate] abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.
- G. [2Pe 2:1-3 NASB95] 1 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. 2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 3 and in [their] greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.
- H. [2Jo 1:8-10 NASB95] 8 Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. 9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into [your] house, and do not give him a greeting;
- I. [Rev 2:2-3 NASB95] 2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them [to be] false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

### **II. How do we know a false prophet? V15-18**

- A. You will know them.
- B. Do not just by appearance, signs, wonders, prophecies, or deliverances. See Matt. 7:22.
- C. Does their life and teaching line up with the Bible?
- D. [1Ti 4:16 NASB95] 16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

### **III. How much influence should I allow a false prophet? V19-20**

- a. Remove yourself from them.
- b. See 2 John 10.
- c. Do not tolerate people who are actually false prophets.

### **IV. What can I do to avoid false prophets?**

- a. Be in deep and genuine fellowship with a good Bible-based, Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, loving church. [Eph 4:11-14 NASB95] 11 And He gave some [as] apostles, and some [as] prophets, and some [as] evangelists, and some [as] pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
- b. Know the word of God. Study it. Exegesis not eisegesis. "Context is king." "Exegesis means that one allows the text to speak for itself whereas eisegesis

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indicates that one makes the text say what they want it to say.” [2Pe 1:20-21 NASB95] 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is [a matter] of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

- c.** Listen to good teachers. [Mar 4:24 NASB95] 24 And He was saying to them, "Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides.
  - d.** Judge what you hear. [1Co 14:29 NASB95] 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment.
  - e.** Believe that good solid teaching will bring good in your life. Good trees bear good fruit which brings health. God wants good for you!
- **God wants us to beware of false preachers and teachers so we can avoid the bad and receive the good.**