

# Careful Who You Follow

Matthew 23: 25-39

July 9, 2023

Verse 25 - 26

Careful - God can see your heart

So many people make false judgments based on appearance

**Are you guilty?**

*I am!*

**God sees through all the external stuff**

God sees the heart – **1 Samuel 16: 7**

**Verse 27 - 28**

**Careful - Inner decay can be disguised**



**No one can hide from God** – *all things are  
laid bare!*

Your excuses cannot hide you – ***GOD SEES!***

Darkness cannot hide you – ***GOD SEES!***

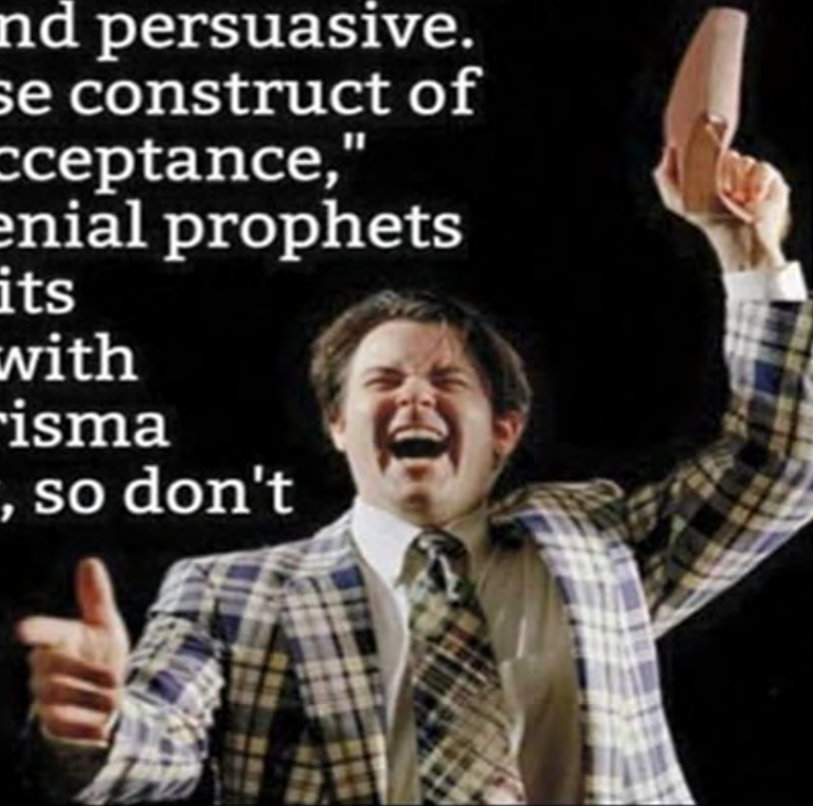


**Be careful,  
inner decay  
can be  
disguised!**

# False Prophets

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Don't forget that satan and his ministers are attractive, engaging and persuasive. Using a false construct of "love and acceptance," these congenial prophets in our pulpits are loaded with talent, charisma and energy, so don't be fooled!





**"For such [are] false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore [it is] no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."**



**1 Corinthians 11:13-15**

Verse 19 - 33

Careful with an elevated self-worth

# GOD HATES PRIDE!!

## God's Hate List

1. A proud look (“Eyes of loftiness”)
2. A lying tongue
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. A heart that devises wicked imaginations
5. Feet swiftly running to mischief
6. A false witness that speaketh lies
7. He that sows discord among brethren

For all of us with an elevated self-worth,  
Philippians 2: 3 is for us

Do nothing out of selfish  
ambition or vain conceit.

**But in humility consider  
others better than yourselves**

Each of you should look  
not only to your own interests  
but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4



**Whatever good we do . . . . .**

**Whatever we have been given . . . . .**

***IT IS ALL FROM GOD!!***

Verse 34 - 36

Careful – Serving Jesus will cost you

**There are so few who will be honest with you and tell you it will cost you to follow Jesus**

**Jesus said that persecution will happen, many would die for Him**

**Why did many believers die?**

*They refused to recant, to deny Jesus*

**Scripture is serious about not denying Jesus!**

**“THEREFORE WHOEVER  
CONFESSES ME BEFORE MEN,  
HIM I WILL ALSO CONFESS  
BEFORE MY FATHER WHO IS IN  
HEAVEN. BUT WHOEVER DENIES  
ME BEFORE MEN, HIM I WILL  
ALSO DENY BEFORE MY FATHER  
WHO IS IN HEAVEN.”**

**MATTHEW 10:32-33**

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**THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING: FOR IF  
WE DIED WITH HIM, WE SHALL ALSO  
LIVE WITH HIM. IF WE ENDURE, WE  
SHALL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM. IF WE  
DENY HIM, HE ALSO WILL DENY US.  
IF WE ARE FAITHLESS, HE REMAINS  
FAITHFUL; HE CANNOT DENY  
HIMSELF.**

**II TIMOTHY 2:11-13**



## Jesus on the cost of discipleship

### Luke 9:23-26

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. <sup>25</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? <sup>26</sup> For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels."



*“The lighter the cross,  
the weaker your witness”*  
(Erwin Lutzer)

**The pharaohs thought they could take this  
world's stuff with them**

**Their tombs are full of this world's stuff;  
*it all stayed here!***



**Only what is done for Christ will last!**

Verse 37 - 38

Careful - The penalty for rejecting  
Christ is awful!

**Jesus paid the price to secure our freedom from debtors' prison – *HIS LIFE FOR MY LIFE!***

**Freedom is offered, *it is a gift*, a person must be willing to accept the gift**

**The Pharisees, and the nation they influenced, were not willing**

**For all the unwilling:**

***“Your house is left to you desolate”***

**(A solitary wilderness)**

**Careful - *the penalty for rejecting Messiah is awful!***

- An unfulfilled life here
- A sense that something is missing, never satisfied
- An eternity separated from God
- Eternal punishment in hell, never satisfied

## CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Think carefully about who you follow

**There are many voices vying for your attention and loyalty**

Everyone follows someone or something

**Everyone has a worldview** – the lens in which you view your world

When it comes down to it, there are only two worldviews: **God's view and man's view**

## Which basket will you place your trust in?

- 1) Those attending the academic victimology complex (*secular college*) are fed a progressive Marxist world view (*doctrine*)



2) DOCTRINE > WORLDVIEW > VALUES > CONDUCT

How do you see the world?



The heart of God is expressed over and over in Scripture:

- 2 Peter 2: 9
- 1 Timothy 2: 4
- Ezekiel 18: 23

**GOD IS A LIFE GIVER**

**GOD IS A WAYMAKER**

**GOD IS A MIRACLE WORKER**

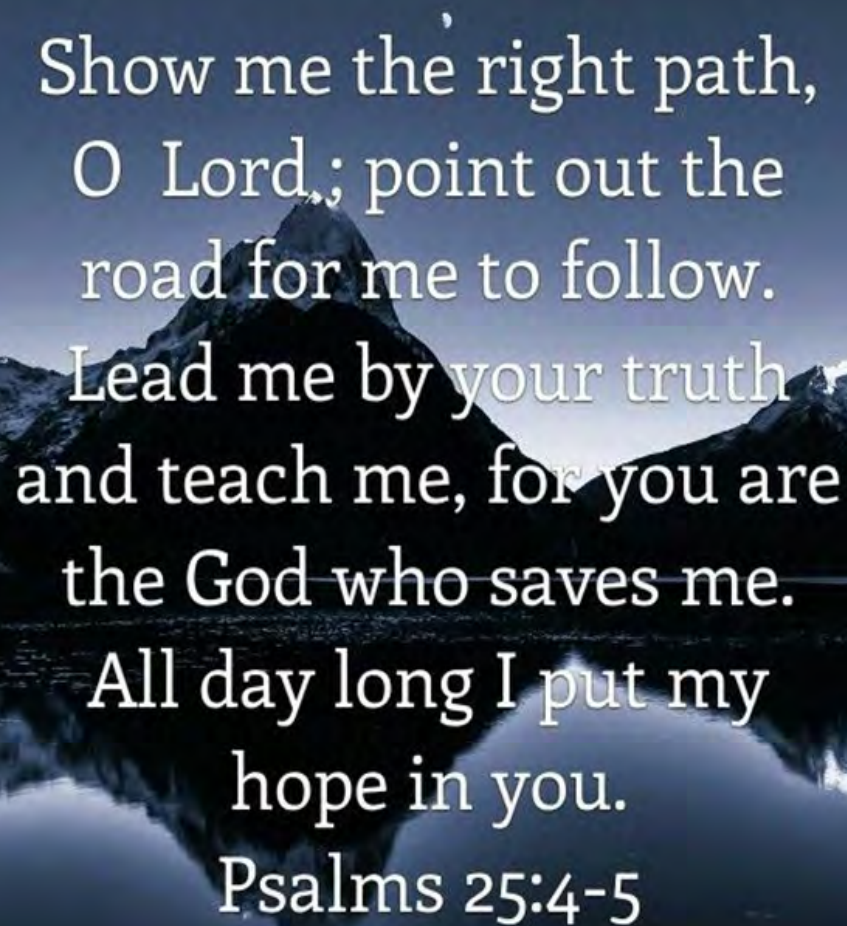
**GOD IS A PROMISE KEEPER**

**GOD IS A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**

**GOD IS FOR ME, WHO CAN BE AGAINST ME?**

**FOLLOW JESUS!**

**HE WILL LEAD YOU DOWN THE  
RIGHT PATH!!**



Show me the right path,  
O Lord; point out the  
road for me to follow.  
Lead me by your truth  
and teach me, for you are  
the God who saves me.  
All day long I put my  
hope in you.  
Psalms 25:4-5



*Lead*  
me in the right path,  
*O Lord,*  
or my enemies  
will conquer me.  
Make your way plain  
for me  
*to follow.*  
Psalm 5:8

**CAREFUL WHO YOU FOLLOW!**

**FOLLOW THE JESUS PATH!!**