

The FABLE Followers

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I found myself today on this subject upon hearing of someone who had “heard a good message at church”. I considered what is a “good message”? A good message to me would be the truth. The absolute spoken Word of God by the Spirit to His people. That to me is the epitome of a “good message”. A true message, the message of course, is the gospel. The Word of God proclaimed (preached) as witnessed by the Spirit, Paul called the 'word of truth'. Then there is the “testimony of Jesus Christ”, which is His voice spoken by the Spirit to those with ears to hear among the assemblies. Rev. 2-3.

My concern is that the majority of religious masses “attending church” are not being told what they should hear, but what they want to hear in most cases. And, those who lead them, are giving them a smooth word, but not the Living Word, which is living and powerful, likened to a two-edged sword. They say true things and lots of Jesus-isms, but their word is almost always without power. No conviction, no exhortation, no reproof or rebuke. All is well in church-ville. But not so according to the Lord. He will always tell you the truth.

So, I looked up the word “fables”. It is used specifically five times in the New Testament; four by Paul and once by Peter. Generally, when these authentic servants of Christ address this subject each of them were urging people to maintain the truth and sound doctrine as opposed to “fables”, mythos, a collected body of words that project an ideology. One that is twisted, crooked, false, mixed, or an out right lie.

In the previous days, I had noted in Isaiah 30, Jeremiah 23 and Ezekiel 13, these three prophets speaking the Word of God against the pseudo prophets and false leaders of religious people. The people's state was one of apostasy, idolatry and worldliness. Yet, the “message” to the religious masses was a “smooth” word. A word that said, “peace, peace, when there was no peace”. A message that placated the religious masses in their fallen state. I call this “fluffy puffy” words. God had rebuked this practice of giving a 'good message' or pep talk when the people needed to hear the truth. Like, “repent!”. “Put away your sinful ways and crucify the flesh!”. “Put on Jesus. Put off the old man and his deeds”. They needed to be reproofed, rebuked and instructed by the Living Word of God. 2Tim. 3:16. But, to be told, 'all is well, nothing will come about' as they are in sin against the Lord, is a tragedy. It is deplorable! It's a downright lie.

God had said in Jeremiah 23:22, “if they had stood in My counsel, (*My intimate communication*), then they would have caused the people to hear My words and turned them from their wickedness and the evil of their ways”. What you just read is proof positive of a real ministry versus a false ministry. They either speak the true Word from God, and call them to turn from their sin, or they are fake. That's all there is to it. “You shall know them by their fruit”, Jesus said. If they speak of themselves, they seek their own glory. If they seek to glorify the One that sent them then they are genuine. If they hear the Word then they are of God. If not they are not. It's so simple. These are gifts of proving truth and error from the Lord.

What is this thing that religious leaders stand in front of the people supposedly in the name of the LORD, and do not speak the truth from the Lord? Why do they give a false word of comfort instead of telling them the truth of what they need to hear? Hmm. Think about it. It is vital to understand and perceive this practice. What it is and why. This way you will spot it when it is practiced. Discern discern, try and test, put everything to the scrutiny of the eye of the LORD.

So, we have the warnings of Paul and Peter. Jesus too. Paul wrote Timothy to stay in Ephesus as he journeyed to other regions. He urged Timothy to command some to teach no other doctrine. And, “neither give heed to FABLES”...

I am stressing this concept of fables, an ideology of words promoted by false teachers. False teachers promoting false doctrine. False teachers are both false by their life and by their doctrine.

Paul said that the fables and 'endless genealogies' was something that gendered strife and questions. Doing so did not edify or foster faith. “This do”, he said.

Both Paul and Peter after chiding the promotion of fables urged the foundation of truth. For example, “For the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith, unfeigned”. 1Timothy 1:4-6

Peter said, “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitness of His majesty.” 2Peter 1:16

This is important to note that you can tell when someone has truly met the Lord as opposed to someone just talking about things they heard about Him. Peter testified of Jesus power as He was revealed. He saw, tasted, touched, and handled the Word of Life in its glory—Jesus. Same is true about John. There are people today that have met the glorified resurrected Jesus in spirit. They have had the encounter and continuing revelation of Him. They know His sufferings and walk in His ways. They are not using Jesus for wares and a profession but they are declaring Him as the all in all for all. See the difference? Look around. People took note about the apostles in the Book of Acts, that they 'had been with the Lord'. Knowing Jesus, being in fellowship with Him, makes a powerful difference to an individual. Their words aren't talk, or fancy oration; but power and demonstration of the Spirit. 1Cor. 2:4. Their words are full of life, conviction and truth, and not appeasing falsehood of slippery tongues of guile.

Peter then said, “we have not FOLLOWED cunningly devised fables. To follow is to follow in another's steps, or as the Lexicon states, “to imitate one's act. That is deep. Who is acting but he that creates cunningly, with skill of the serpent, a carefully manufactured and thought out devised fable. We have not done that Peter said. But what we have done, is reveal the power of Jesus Himself since we have met Him and are of Him. Proof is in the pudding.

I believe that true servants of Christ, called and equipped by the Spirit, have spiritual abilities to discern and determine the state of people they engage. There is the ability to know those in fellowship with Christ versus those not. The ability to know the depth of maturity, babe or toddler, infant or mature. And, can easily perceive the gall of bitterness and the lack of faith. It is evident to them. Just like a normal person can tell if someone is bald or had a full head of hair. They have spiritual eyes to see the spiritual condition of people. Sadly, many religious leaders do not have these spiritual abilities because they are governed by natural means. They often are not even called. But, they have a job to do, and they follow the traditions of men even going to their schools to learn their craft.

One day I met some church people in my town. They were telling me about their new program at church. They were calling members “apprentices” instead of disciples. This was stunning to me because the definition of an “apprentice” is “a person who is learning a trade from a skilled employer, having agreed to work for a fixed period at low wages.” Perfect word for an extra-biblical form of religion called church. The ekklesia of the Lord, His Body, is a temple/house made without hands

inhabited by the very Spirit of God with Jesus Himself as the Head. But the church world, is a system based of the same thing as the reprobate Christ denying and executing synagogue system. While there are many simple and non-discerning believers in the church system, there are many who have rejected Christ as Head and have chosen other men that come in their own names. The Lord sends His Word and it is up to the people to “receive” His Word. Just like the Lord Jesus sent Paul and Barnabas to synagogues to declare the truth; the same is true today. The Lord said He would send wise men, prophets and scribes, but some of them would be beaten, imprisoned and even killed. Can the people see? Can they hear and understand?

Now, discern this practice of renaming supposed disciples “apprentice”.

Who is the 'skilled employer'? Is an apprentice a follower of Jesus? Are we working for wages like a hireling? Or, while learning the craft of “clergy-ism”, the practice of learning the tools of trade of performing skills to govern OVER the people? But, renaming the people apprentice instead of disciple is fitting for those hosing religion and its wares over the manner of the ways of the LORD in His Kingdom and Assembly, the Body of Christ, called falsely “church”.

I have stated many times that the first test after coming to Jesus is whether one will continue in the Word and follow Jesus. The temptation is to follow men and follow the crowd of those hypocritically being religious. Holding to traditions that violate the Word of God and maintaining the doctrines of man. Both condemned by Jesus. Can one be a disciple of Jesus and yet be a disciple of a man or denomination? Hmm.

It is hard for people to hear these things. Once a person has been entrenched in the tradition and doctrines of man called FABLES by Paul and Peter, they typically hold to that instead of the truth of the Word of God.