

"Characteristics of False Teachers"

Part 6

2 Peter 2

Introduction: In our last study we were looking at the false teachers as described by Peter in 2 Peter 2:10-16. It was in these verses that we were able to see a spiritual autopsy of their heart. They can present themselves as true believers who are walking on a high spiritual level but in the verses, we studied last week we were able to see just how depraved they are deep down in their hearts. Tonight in our study we shall continue this study and as we do, we are going to see even more about these false teachers.

"The Emptiness of their Offers"

2 Peter 2:17-22

Notice 2 Peter 2:17

There is much for us to consider here. First of all Peter tells his readers that the false teachers are "wells without water". The idea here is that their ways and their messages bring no satisfaction to those who are spiritually thirsty. Jesus offers living water that satisfies those who drink of it.

Revelation 22:16-17

¹⁶ *I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

¹⁷ *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

In John chapter 4 Jesus spoke with a woman who was drinking from a well that would never satisfy, and this was the very wells they the false teachers were pointing to.

John 4:6, 7, 10-18

⁶ *Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.*

⁷ *There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.*

¹⁰ *Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*

¹¹ *The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?*

¹² *Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?*

¹³ *Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:*

¹⁴ *But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

¹⁵ *The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.*

¹⁶ *Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.*

¹⁷ *The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:*

¹⁸ *For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.*

This woman was drinking from a well of immorality and no matter how much she drank she was never satisfied. The water Jesus offered was LIVING WATER that would bring satisfaction.

Many people today are living in the very place that Mephibosheth was living.

2 Samuel 9:1-4

And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

² *And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he.*

³ *And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.*

⁴ *And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.*

Lodebar means "dry and barren". This is the very land which many people live in today. They then become like the woman at the well in John 4 and they try to satisfy their thirst with some kind of sinful practice.

Let me also point out that it is possible for God's people to walk away from Him and attempt to satisfy their thirst with the waters of the world.

Jeremiah 2:13

¹³ *For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*

Israel had turned from the Lord, and they were looking to other ways to satisfy their spiritual thirst. This happens today when a believer turns from the Lord to the world. People turn from the Lord, and they get caught up in all kinds of activities. It can be camping, sports, work, possessions and the list goes on and on. None of these will bring lasting satisfaction. If you drink from the cisterns of the world, you will only get contaminated water. It will affect many different areas of your life.

Now let us get back to the false teachers.

Notice 2 Peter 2:17 again.

The false teachers are compared to "clouds carried by a tempest". This has several meanings. They are empty clouds and empty clouds have nothing to offer. We know what it is to live in a dry time when our land needs rain, and then you see clouds building on the horizon. But they blow over and leave no water. They look to be promising clouds, but they are empty.

This is exactly how the false teachers are. They make many promises but in the end they never deliver. Let us notice what Jude wrote about them.

Jude 1:12

¹² *These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;*

The fact that both Peter and Jude tell us that they are carried by the wind means that there is no stability with them. They may promise satisfaction and stability, but they cannot deliver.

Let me just say that stability is greatly needed in our society today and it will never be found in what the false teachers offer, nor will it be found in what the world offers. It is only found in the Word of God.

Psalm 1:1-4

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

⁴ The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Getting back to Peter's Words about the false teachers, clouds also bring darkness. This is another affect of the teaching of the false teachers. They lead many people into the darkness.

Notice 2 Peter 2:17 again.

The "MIST" of darkness is reserved for them The word "MIST" means "gloom". These false teachers are heading toward eternal damnation and destruction.

Notice 2 Peter 2:18

Here in this verse we see how they gain followers. They speak words of arrogance that are devoid of Truth. They appeal to the sin nature of their followers. They allure through the lusts of the flesh and unbridled lust. Basically the false teachers that Peter is warning about they will teach their followers that it is perfectly fine to live in sin and to seek the desires of the flesh.

Notice 2 Peter 2:18 again.

I want us to see who they come after. Those who are newly saved or those who are not growing in the faith. It is "those who have escaped from them who are living in error". These are believers who are living close to the edge. These are believers who are playing

with sin and have not broken completely away from the sins of the old life. They are holding to some of the practices of the old life before Jesus Christ. These are the people that are the most vulnerable. This is exactly why Peter wrote the entire first chapter on spiritual growth. Believers need to understand that when they dabble in sin, they are setting themselves up for a major fall. We desperately need to be growing in our faith.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

¹⁵ *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

¹⁶ *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

¹⁷ *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

Notice 2 Peter 2:19

These false teachers promise liberty but they themselves are enslaved to sin. They can not lead someone else to a life of freedom because they are not free. No teacher can ever lead someone to a higher level than what they themselves have reached.

Notice 2 Peter 2:19 again.

These false teachers were in bondage, and they were the servants of sin. They had rejected the way of salvation and the end result was to be a servant to sin.

Notice 2 Peter 2:15

They had forsaken the right way.

John 8:31-36

³¹ *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

³² *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

³³ *They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

³⁴ *Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

³⁵ *And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.*

³⁶ *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

Peter is making a very important point here in chapter 2. He is telling his readers that when the false teachers come in, they are going to try to get you to go back into sin and if you do you will become enslaved.

Notice 2 Peter 2:20

Here we see just how close a person can get but yet not be saved. These false teachers had knowledge but no relationship with the Lord. They had been exposed to the Truth, but they rejected it and now the latter end would be worse than the beginning. Why is this? Because the Truth they were exposed to made them even more accountable.

Luke 12:48b

For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:

Notice 2 Peter 2:21

These people would have been far better off if they had never heard the Truth. But they did and therefore they were now much more accountable.

Notice 2 Peter 2:22

Just like the dog and the pig the false teachers have returned to their old ways.

Conclusion:

The more we look at the false teachers the more we see just how dangerous they really are, and we also see the need for spiritual growth in our own lives.

Next week we will step into chapter 3 where we will see the doctrine of the false teachers.