

False prophet or Wrong prophet; False teacher or wrong teacher?

A man or woman of God can be wrong and will be from time to time. This should not be a surprise to anyone. No man had perfect doctrine. Only Jesus did. No man has complete revelation, only Jesus did. God is working and moving through imperfect people who though are born again, have soul and a flesh that could hinder or even sabotage the flow of God's power and what He wants to do.

God has never had a perfect vessel to use, and you are not going to be the first one. He uses us in spite of us, rarely because of us. Even on our best day, in our own selves we still come short. Only Jesus has qualified us.

The Word of God has lots of warnings against false prophets. Let's look deeper and see what that would mean.

[15] Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves

- These false prophets were wolves in sheep clothing.
- They were fakes
- They were wolves, not sheep.
- Wolves come to kill and eat the sheep, not protect them.
- Sheep is a term used to refer to believers.

Jesus was warning us about them because they were misleading people into entering through the wide gate and the broad way.

In Matthew 7:15-23, Jesus' warning was not against wrong prophets, but **false prophets**.

False prophets do exist however, because one misses it, does not make them a false prophet. There is a difference between a false prophet and a wrong prophet or teacher. The false prophet is intentionally deceiving, using, and preying on the people for personal benefit and in many cases, if not all is not born again and has no relationship with the Lord whereas the wrong teacher is simply having a knowledge problem. They are wrong and in all their

sincerity. His heart is right, but his head is wrong. It still causes damage to minister or lead from a place of lack of knowledge. People do perish when a wrong teacher is running things, but God can and has used a wrong teacher to advance His kingdom.

- Draw away disciples after them (Acts 20:30).
- Sow doubt, confusion, and division.

We will examine some folks from the Word that were wrong, yet not false.

Peter

- a) Matthew 16:17,22-23 *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. [22] Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. [23] But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*
 - i) Peter after receiving a powerful revelation from the Father, he was very wrong the following verses. He was opposing Jesus going to the cross to the point that Jesus had to rebuke him—the Satan that was speaking through him. Notice it says Jesus said unto Peter. Peter had allowed Satan to use him as a vessel and the rebuke was for both.
- b) John 18:10-11 *Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. [11] Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?*
 - i) Peter did not stop on what happened in Matthew 16. He went on to cut off Malchus' ear again in opposition of Jesus being taken by the band of soldiers. Peter was wrong again, but not false.
 - ii) He went on to curse and deny the Lord. Peter was wrong, but not false. The Lord later restored him and used him mightily.

Was Peter a false prophet, false disciple, phony teacher? Of course not! He was just a wrong one—very wrong on many occasions.

We need to be careful not to overly criticize ministers and call them a false preacher out of the Devil if they do stupid stuff. What does that wake you when you yourself is wrong? Are you off the Devil? Are you a false prophet? False believer?

Apollos

Acts 18:24-26 *And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. [25] This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. [26] And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.*

a) Apollos was a serious man of God.

- i) He was instructed in the way of the Lord.
- ii) Fervent in the Spirit
- iii) Spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord.

b) He missed one thing:

- i) He knew only the baptism of John. His revelation was incomplete. Was Apollos a false teacher?

Paul

a) Acts 15:36-39 *And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. [37] And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. [38] But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. [39] And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;*

- i) Paul was in contention so sharp between him and Barnabas. This can be taken by some to say, a prophet—a real prophet cannot behave like this. If he does, he is false, right? Wrong!

ii) Being wrong does not mean you are not a man of God.

b) Romans 9:1-3 *I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, [2] That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. [3] For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:*

- i) Paul wished that he could be accursed so that his brethren be saved. This sounds as a noble statement, but very damn. He was elevating himself to a place that only Jesus occupies.

Elijah

1 Kings 19:13-14 *And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? [14] And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

a) Romans 11:1-4

b) Elijah was a classic example of a prophet used mightily by God, but he was wrong on somethings. Here he thought the Lord had no one else left, but him. Elijah was deceived. He was wrong. Being wrong does not mean he was a false prophet. He was a wrong prophet in somethings, but not a false prophet.

c) Prophets hidden by Obadiah

- i) 1 Kings 18:3-4,13 *And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly: [4] For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the Lord, that **Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.**) [13] Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, **how I hid an hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?***

Christ is preached

- a) Philippians 1:15-18 *Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: [16] The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: [17] But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. [18] What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.*
- i) We have been given a reason to rejoice. Some have criticized Justin Beiber, Kanye West, R. Kelly, and many more public figures but the truth is of Christ is preached He can use that to draw people to the light.

- ii) All these guys may not have renewed their minds, but doesn't make them false, but wrong.

More thoughts:

Bad Teaching and False Teaching topics from Barry Bennett

- a) Wrong teaching subjects by Wrong prophets
 - i) Sovereignty of God
 - ii) God is in control of everything
 - iii) God allows bad things or causes bad things.
 - iv) Sickness can be God's will.
 - v) Job
 - vi) God is judging our nation because of our sin
- b) False teachings by false prophets
 - i) No hell, no sin
 - ii) Universalism—Every man is saved, or everyone will ultimately be saved.
 - iii) The Bible is not God's Word
 - iv) Divinity of Jesus (Jesus is not God)
 - v) No sowing and reaping in grace
 - vi) Jesus did not die physically. He died spiritually
 - vii) Question the authenticity of the Bible
 - viii) Deity
 - ix) Lone rangers
 - x) Accountable to no one
 - xi) Oppose authority
 - xii) Sow discord and division

2 Peter 2—There shall be false prophets among you.

Characteristics:

- Bring in damnable heresies privily. They do not do this publicly.
- Denying the Lord
- Bring upon themselves swift destruction.
- Many shall follow their pernicious ways: By reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
- Covetous

- Feign words
- Make merchandise of you
- Whose judgment lingereth not
- Their damnation slumbereth not.

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