

False Prophets

So many must be lacking judgment.
They look but do not see,
listen but do not hear and
cannot distinguish chaff from grain.

As in Nineveh they know not
their left hand from their right
when it comes to understanding
the ways of the Lord.

Under the spell of leaders that
God did not call but came running,
did not speak to but eagerly prophesy,
the followers need counsel
to revise their hollow ways
and lacking such they remain content
with spiritual sluggishness.

Such leaders have no mission from God,
they are given no command.
They sell peace to the haughty
telling the hard hearted they will
remain free from the oncoming evil.

They are slick in soft-pedaling ways
that keep the cash rolling in.

I heard one of them say,
"You can know me by the amount of money I have."
This is their measure of spiritual renown.
They shamelessly invoke the widow of Zarephath
who gave her all to Elijah and say
"Give to me, a prophet, and receive a prophet's reward.",
hypocrites who pile up burdens on the needy.

A whirling tempest is building around the ways
of these con-artists.

They prophecy lies and bewitch with deceptive fancies,
rehashing fantasies with one another,
leading the many onto idolatrous paths.

Their message becomes a burden
because they pervert the gospel.
Many rise high but this will allow them
to be cast further away from the Lord's presence
into shame and darkness.

Their way is dark and slippery,
the Lord's angels pursue them.
True prophets are not made
by their own conceited opinions
but rather by the angels sent to purify them.
Look for the humble ones who preach simplicity
and do not seek money and fame.

Elisha cured Naaman of his leprosy
and refused a gift in return.
Gehazi, his servant, pursued a reward
and reaped leprosy as a result.

Jesus healed many and made it clear:
tell no one of this, except the priest when needed;
keep it quiet, be thankful to God and sin no more
lest something worse befalls you.

Are these the kind of messages you are hearing?
If not, be careful in listening
and even more so in following examples they set.

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Jeremiah 23:9-40