

PURIFYING MOTIVES

John 7:18

Introduction:

1. Distinguishing Marks of a False Prophet

A) A false prophet speaks “from himself” (John 7:18a)

> That prepositional phrase is important – “from himself”

> These people now fall into a category called “a false prophet” (Jeremiah 14:14; 23:16, 25-26)

B) A false prophet seeks his own glory (John 7:18b)

> Their desire for glory can be seen in their message

They will tell people what they want to hear – for a price (Micah 3:5; 2 Peter 2:1-3)

They will tell people what they want to hear – for popularity (2 Timothy 4:3)

> Their desire for glory can also be seen in their manner of life

Their “religious devotion” serves as an opportunity to exalt themselves (Matthew 6:1-2, 5, 16; Luke 18:9-12)

C) A false prophet is not righteous

> Jesus reveals the heart of the Jews (John 7:19)

> This is a common characteristic of false teachers (Matthew 7:15-20)

D) A false prophet is dangerous

> Wolves in sheep’s clothing who seek to destroy the sheep (Matthew 7:15)

2. Distinguishing Marks of a True Prophet

A) Jesus is a true prophet of God who speaks the message He received from God

> Jesus is clear and adamant about the source of His authority (John 7:16; 8:28; 12:49-50)

B) A true prophet of God seeks to glorify the One who sent Him (John 7:18c)

> Imagine the folly of anything else

> The declared goal of Jesus life was to glorify His Father (John 12:27-28; 17:1)

Even when the opportunity was there for Jesus to “bask in the glory”

He removed Himself from the hype (John 6:15)

He waited for His Father’s timing (John 7:6-8)

> The price for glorifying His Father was tremendous personal sacrifice

C) A true prophet of God is righteous (John 7:18d)

> Uniquely, this prophet – Jesus, has no unrighteousness in Him

He is not a deceiver (John 7:12d)

He is not a “Sabbath-breaker” (John 7:19-24)

> At the end of His life those who hated Him the most and sought for some accusation that could be made about Jesus which could justify killing Him

D) A true prophet of God is a great blessing to mankind

> Jesus had come from heaven to earth, not to condemn but to bring salvation (John 3:17)

> His very being, life, death, and resurrection communicate the love of God to a world under the curse of sin (1 John 4:9-10)

APPLICATION:

We need to heed the warnings concerning false teachers who are not only all around us, but they are among us (1 John 2:18-19)

1. Do those who profess to speak for God speak from themselves or from His Word?

2. Do those who profess to speak for God seek to glorify themselves or God?

3. Does the character of their life line up with the message they proclaim?

No one, beside Jesus, is perfect

But if they talk the talk but don’t walk the walk – then they have not been sent by God