



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Micah Sermon Series

Supports Session 11: Leaders Needed

Sermon Title: “Watch Out for Wolves” (Matthew 7:15-20)

Connection to Micah 3:1-12

False prophets misled Israel into judgment and vexed Micah’s ministry of truth. Jesus warned of false prophets and their predatory behavior. False teachers and prophets were predicted so believers must be wary.

Introduction/Opening

At the touch of our fingertips, our phones and laptops yield statistics, definitions, and articles on any topic. However, we must beware that predators, disguised as friends and experts, will use the internet to prey on unsuspecting victims through false proclamations and appeals. We must be discerning when it comes to the truth.

Outline

1. Wolves Abound

- a. Micah complained that false prophets tried to silence the true proclamation of God’s coming judgment. The false prophets proclaimed peace when a tragedy of wrath was on the horizon. The false prophets were motivated by their stomachs and would be ashamed and disgraced for their misleading message (Micah 2:6; 3:5-7).
- b. Jesus warned that false teachers would come disguised as sheep, docile and symbolic of God’s flock. Instead of friendly, they were wolves with wicked and ferocious hearts intent on devouring the innocent sheep of God. (Matt. 7:15)
- c. The “ravaging wolves” are false speakers claiming to speak for God. They speak from their own imaginations (Ezek. 13:2), and their teachings discourage and divide (1 Tim. 6:4-5; 2 Tim. 2:23).
- d. The prophets denounced false prophets for proclaiming peace when there was no peace (Jer. 6:14, 8:11; Ezek. 13:10,13). False teachers deny the truth (Matt. 7:13-14).

2. Look at the Results

- a. The wolf attempts to camouflage his nature, but he cannot mask the products of his lifestyle. His deeds, greed, and words will reveal who he is.
- b. Though the devil masquerades as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:13-15), a closer look will uncover his obvious evil conduct.
- c. Jesus said to inspect the fruit of their lives (Matt. 7:15-20). The production of thistles and thorns will obviously reveal the fraud of the false teacher. In contrast, the mature disciple

of Jesus will bear the fruit of the Spirit; peace, love, and joy (Gal. 5:22). We are to emulate the Producer of good fruit.

3. Sheep Must be Suspicious

- a. Jesus warned us we must investigate the words of persons seeking to be our instructors (Matt. 7:15-20). Paul reminded the Galatians that what one reaps, he will also sow (Gal. 6:7-9). John directed his readers to test the spirits, looking at their claims about Jesus (1 John 4:1-6).
- b. Believers are especially sensitive to someone bold enough to speak. We are eager to follow the voice of our loving Good Shepherd, but we must be on guard. The one purporting to convey the truth of Jesus might be a “ravaging wolf.” We must test them against the standard of God’s Word.

Conclusion

With a click of a mouse or pressing an application button we can be on the information highway. Bible studies and Christian messages are available in multiple ways. What amazing benefits flow into our lives through these amazing resources. However, we must beware that lurking on the information highway and various outlets are predators. We must protect ourselves, testing all messages against the truth of the Bible.

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