

The Jeremiah Connection
Excerpt 3 From Chapter
PROPHETS AND PROPHETESSES BEWARE
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There's another caravan breezing through town. It's the Traveling Prophet Show coming to a church in need of some publicity near you. We get the flyers in the mail, addressed exclusively to us... "or Current Resident." We're promised a hee-hawing good time "in the Spirit," but upon arriving, we find nothing but a dance party in a concert setting that caters to our human need to have an emotional experience. The Holy Spirit is drowned out by flesh.

The organs are buzzing. The choir is jumping. "Prophetess" Whosmawhatzit comes out in her traditional Caribbean or Haitian attire, something similar to what is worn during voodoo rituals, spews a "Thus saith the Lord," tells a few people God hears their prayer and will "heal" their finances by sending money, and everyone in the audience (not Church, but audience) goes wild.

Hallelujah! Christianity at its finest!

Or... perhaps something that brings to mind from Matthew 7:

21Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Then there are the flashy men, "Prophet" Goldplatedfaucets and "Prophet" Filetminion. They are impeccably dressed, because after all, they struggled and

toiled to get where they are and they once gave their last penny to a traveling preacher, and hence, God rewarded their diligence by making them millionaires. God will make you a millionaire too if just “give out of your need.” Need a thousand dollars? Drop a hundred into the bucket. Need ten thousand? Sow that “\$1,000 seed”!

They say things like, “There’s someone out there today. You just lost your job. You don’t know what to do, and the rent is due next week. God hears you and will supply. Sow your best seed now.” And the people in this described predicament go through feelings of guilt if they don’t give away their last ten dollars instead of feeding their kids oatmeal with it, and when they still can’t pay their rent, they are sure it’s because they’re disobedient heathens.

God is able to respond to a desperate soul by supplying their need without sending someone in pinstripes and pearly whites to prey upon them. Maybe God does ask that the desperate person open their heart and give something away. But that is between the person and God. The idea behind giving something away is most often to supply someone less fortunate than ourselves. If I were destitute and couldn’t make my rent, the last thing I would expect a loving Father in heaven to do is tell me to hand over my last three dollars to someone whose biggest problem in life is whether or not to hide his or her million-dollar mansion within his or her ministry to avoid having to pay taxes on it.

If we have the Holy Spirit, we should all have the ability to discern when we’re hearing from God – when to give, when not to give, what our next course of action should be. His word to each of us is individual. These charlatans will craftily coerce you to give on the spot, not mindful of the possibility that God has another course of action for you at that time, and they do it by invading your conscience.

Listen – THESE ARE NOT PROPHETS!