

When was the last time you checked to make sure there were no wolves among your flock?

One of the ways to spot a false teacher, that is to say a bandit, thief, or liar is that they do not enter the sheep fold through the gate. But that isn't always the case! The Bible instructs us to beware of false teachers.

Here are a few of the ways we can spot who is real and who isn't: "For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect - if that were possible" (Matt. 24:24).

They seek their own honor... "He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him" (John 7:18).

They preach a distorted Jesus... "For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough...For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ" (2 Cor. 11:4, 13).

Their teaching enslaves Christians... "This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves" (Gal. 2:4).

They introduce heresies... "But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them - bringing swift destruction on themselves" (2 Pet. 2:1).

They deny that Jesus took on a human body... "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God" (1 John 4:1-3).

Even if an Angel comes and preaches anything different than what is taught in sacred scripture or in tradition, don't listen.

For as these above are among the Subjects of Jesus' farewell address, they are a main concern for the 5th, 6th, and 7th Sundays of the Easter Season.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life and you cannot preach against his commandments or teachings and claim to be His disciple by word or example. Canon Law makes plain the penalty for doing so as does Sacred Scripture.

Something to keep tabs on: Words have meaning and speak to what is influencing the person's heart, and their actions make their heart's desires manifest in this world and bear witness as to whom they are serving.

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