

How Jesus Discerned.

Isaiah 7:14-16

King James Version (KJV)

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

¹⁵ Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

¹⁶ For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

Here is the whole secret. Discernment is not learned, it is developed. This means that the whole of our experience of God and his written word is required to develop true spiritual discernment. Even then it does not consist of theological theory and gathering and absorbing the facts. That is only part of it. A developed discernment is as much a matter of spiritual taste and smell as it is mental understanding. A good chef many have many recipes on file. But after she selects, cuts up, mixes and cooks the final test is in the smell and taste of the dish. True spiritual discernment must include the smell and taste of the doctrine or practice. So, how do we know if the smell and taste is a good one.

“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusts in him.” Psalm 34:8

We smell and taste and consume the very best and sweetest and compare all things to that. Isaiah says that Immanuel will eat butter and honey. This Jesus did. And this Jesus Is. Anything that does not taste like butter and honey does not taste right. Furthermore, it is not a matter of degrees, of tasting ALMOST like butter and honey. It is a simple decision. If it tastes like butter and honey, you choose it. If it does not taste like butter and honey, you refuse it.

Bank tellers are not taught how to identify counterfeit money by studying counterfeit money. They are taught to study all the details of real money. Anything that does not resemble the real thing is, therefore, counterfeit. The teller may not even know exactly what is wrong, but the great majority of the time some part of their mind recognizes the fake money.

There are numerous axioms brought forth by the natural mind to illustrate this concept. “This food tastes a little off.” Or, “I smell a rat.” Dried prepared food that has spent too much time in a warehouse will have an aged taste. It smells like a warehouse. This is not good. That warehouse smell usually comes from an infestation of rodents. It smells like rats. The phrase “ I smell a rat” has valid origins.

We are often taught about spiritual things by references to natural things. For instance, the Holy Spirit may be likened to the wind. Of the five natural human senses smell and taste are unique. Of course, seeing and hearing and touching are great, but God does not always give spiritual visions, speak audibly or enable us to physically feel his presence. Those three senses do not require us to actually take in a substance. Smell requires some vapors to actually enter the nose and taste requires that the substance be taken into the mouth which usually leads to ingesting it unless you spit it out. True spiritual discernment requires that you take some into your spiritual self and either eat it or spit it out. A keen sense of spiritual smell will prevent you from having to taste it and a keen sense of spiritual taste can at least enable you to spit it out before you swallow it. There is even the axiom, “He swallowed the whole thing,” meaning that the person in question was completely taken in by the lie or the fake or the sham.

The Christian “lay person” must learn to trust their own discernment. It is a gift of the Spirit. I Cor 12: 10 Blind trust in the paid ministerial professional is the path to deception. Just because he is called “Reverend” and is

paid to minister proves nothing spiritually. A lay person who feeds often on the butter and honey of Jesus can feel like there is something wrong with a teaching or a manifestation. But they do not trust their discernment. Certain slang words may apply like “hinky” or “tilt.” Such possible discernment at the very least warrants a close second look.

For instance, what about Angel feathers? Some actually believe that they have a feather which fell from an angel. In the first place, is there any mention whatsoever in the written Word of God about angels having feathers. A close look will soon verify that there is no mention whatsoever of angels having feathers. This is pure drivel and yet people will follow leaders who produce these feathers without questioning the validity of the ‘miracle.’ An old feather pillow will produce an enormous supply of these feathers which can ultimately lead the undiscerning person to the Kool Aid. Is the immediate belief in Angel feathers all that destructive? Perhaps not, but what can it lead to? Why do drug peddlers give away the first few samples of the drug? To gain a permanent addict and customer. The beginning of deception can lead to big issues, especially in a leader.