

4-15-2026 – Proof of Love

These days . . . hard to know what's true. People will say/do anything.

Sucked into video . . . AI. Calls that start w/ a lie . . . to make a sale.

- People have gotten creative in disguising truth.
- "Some people would rather climb a tree to tell a lie than stand on the ground and tell the truth" – i.e., go to great lengths to be dishonest.
 - o There's a motivation to lie . . . greed. Better image. Hide truth.
 - o Jesus warned us to be on guard – "false prophets."

Matthew 7 - ¹⁵"Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. ¹⁶You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. ¹⁹So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

²¹"Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²²On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' ²³But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'"

1 - Heaven isn't for everyone. Not all will be there.

It's more than just believing there is a God; Jesus was the Son of God.

James 2:19 – "You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror."

- There's a difference between acknowledging Jesus & true discipleship
- **False prophets will enter**, & some w/in community are **false disciples**.
They proclaim themselves, with God as their Ave. to greatness.
They follow their own leading; God is not their Shepherd/ Lord.

- What is a false prophet?
 - [Jeremiah 23:16](#) - This is what the LORD of Hosts says: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They are filling you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.”
 - Prophecies that aren’t from God. . . and won’t be fulfilled.
 - **Joseph Smith**, founder of Mormon Church
 - Beware: people who **claim to speak for God** ... but are **pushing themselves forward**, not God.
 - Moses & Elijah did amazing signs/wonders. God worked thru them
 - **Jesus** said: **beware - not all supernatural acts are from God.**
 - **Tom Fischer & Todd White** – leg lengthens...“in Jesus’ name”
 - **Those actions hurt** the Gospel.
 - Even within the church . . . there are “false prophets.”
 - **Jesus said - Mark 13:22** – “**For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones.**”
 - [Acts 8:9-11](#) – “Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention & exclaimed, “This man is rightly called the Great Power of God.” They followed him b/c he had amazed them for a long time w/ his sorcery.”
 - [2 Peter 2:1 - NIV](#) – “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 - Jesus is saying to us - Actions speak louder than words.
- Beware of those who promote themselves, not Jesus.
 - Beware: some will use name of Jesus to make a name for themselves.

- Look at the fruit of their lives. A good tree bears good fruit.
- **How we live matters even more than what we say.**

“Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.”

- That means - we align our actions with God's will.
- **True discipleship** requires **obedience**/action, not just talking about God
- ③ - Be Followers, not just Believers. Live in step w/God’s commandments and Jesus’ teachings. **Walk what we talk.**
- Jesus demonstrated what He taught. He turned the other cheek.
- Sermon on the Mount - Jesus calls us to a higher std of righteousness.

We **come to love Jesus** when we know how much God loves us.

But true love is more than words.

④ - Jesus explained that the **proof of our love** was in **obedience**.

John 14 - ¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. . . . ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” . . . ²³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

- Obedience - actions that are driven by knowledge of what pleases God and a desire to not disappoint Him.
- To really feel the love of God, walk in alignment with Him.
 - God has universal love, but He also shows favor to the faithful.
 - **2 Chronicles 16:9** – “For the eyes of the LORD roam to and fro over all the earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are fully devoted to Him.”
- To really know more of Jesus, live in loving obedience to Him.
- Our sins create distance, and inhibit feeling the full love of God.

The ultimate authenticity of our love is proven by what we do. Obedient.