**~~Christians~~ People You Will Encounter After You Encounter Jesus**



**theway church**

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**Message Title: ~~Christians~~ People You Will Encounter After You Encounter Jesus**

**Message Truth: Not everyone you encounter is pointing you to Jesus**

After you surrender your life into the hands of Jesus Christ and you find yourself in God’s house regularly, you will encounter different people who are teaching you different things. Listen closely and they will reveal themselves to you in a very real and powerful way. Listen haphazardly and you will find yourself buying a lie, entangled in the world, struggling, and asking why?

**~~Christians~~ People You Will Encounter After You Encounter Jesus:**

1. The “Tickler.” The tickler tells you what you want to hear. At the same time, they also speak the things they want to hear. As you search for ways to apply the scripture to your life, they will be teaching you what you are doing is ok. They will tell you to ignore authority in your life because they ignore authority in their life. Their words will be primarily focused on feelings. Listen closely and you will hear their defiance of authority and the rejection of the Word. You will hear how they feel about certain things and not what the scripture declares. They will not always make application of the Word of Truth. In fact they will very seldom apply the scripture, mainly because they don’t know the scripture. If you bring up memorizing the scripture or studying the Word of God they minimize the importance and/or quickly divert the conversation elsewhere. They will be constantly justifying your actions as well as their own. The Bible will not be taught as an absolute unless they have a desire to use it that way. Pay attention to them on some issues they will be dogmatic and others very understanding and compromising. According to them you are ok, and all is well. “That is just the way I am” is their theme song and unfortunately they sing it so much that it becomes true and the result is a hardened heart that just gets weaker. Understand this they are liars and do not speak the truth. Do not fall prey to this company get away from them without hesitation. The Bible speaks of them specifically in 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

**2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.**

1. The time has come.
2. Those who have itchy ears speak tickling words!
3. Self is their motivator.
4. You can find and have many of these teachers if you so desire.
5. They turn away from truth, which is the Word of God.
6. They exchange the Truth for a lie.
7. The “Destroyer.” The destroyer complains about everything. There is no joy in the life of the destroyer. DO NOT be sucked in by something positive coming from the destroyer’s mouth. They do not mean it, just listen a little longer and they will let you know how terrible everything is. Their life is miserable to them and they want you to share in the experience. Unfortunately there are two types of destroyers, Type A and Type B. Type A tells you everything is GREAT, WONDERUL even. But give them 10 minutes and they will land blast you with about 100 things that are wrong, on their way to being terrible, or have by-passed terrible and went straight to pathetic. The Type-B destroyers go straight to the BAD and nothing is good, their conversation with you will be filled with constant complaining and grumbling. Their life isn’t good, the church isn’t good, to them nothing is good. I refer to these people in my life as Energy Vampires; they suck the life right out of you.

**Luke 6: 45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**

1. A good heart brings forth good words.
2. An evil heart brings forth evil.
3. Make no mistake anything that runs contrary to the Word of God is evil.
4. The words spoken by the destroyer are an over flow of an evil heart. Their words are evil, empty, and full of deceit.
5. Yes, even the words they speak to themselves when they tell themselves they are ok are full of deceit and destruction.

**Jude 1:16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.**

**Proverbs 22:24 Make no friendship with an angry man,**

**And with a furious man do not go,**

**Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise *men* will be wise,**

**But the companion of fools will be destroyed.**

**1 Corinthians 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

1. The “Pretender.” The Pretender is all about being an attender. The most important thing in this individual’s life regarding God is their church service. If you mess with their church service you are messing with the very foundation of their RELIGIOUS life. So if you rock their service, you rock their world. You disrupt their almighty service and their foundation begins to crack. The pretender pretends to care about their relationship with Jesus, however, they cannot define their relationship with the same terms in which Jesus defines the relationship. Jesus defines the relationship by starting with the heart and finishing with obedience and time.

* Time in His Word
* Time in Prayer
* Time in Hearing the Word
* Time in Applying the Word
* Time in seeking Him with all your heart
* Time in walking in absolute obedience

The pretender defines the relationship by:

* Church attendance
* The paying of the tithe
* Their ONE aspect of service

You will receive from the pretender everything pointed to the church and very little pointed to your relationship with Jesus. They would rather you be present at church than anything else. They will teach you that you can sit in church and do many other things. The spoken Word nor the Written Word is as important as MANY other things going on in your life. They will, in most circumstances, provide beautiful lip service regarding loving Jesus. However, they do not love Jesus, they love Church.

**Matthew 15:8-9 ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with *their* lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me,**

**Teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”**

1. These people can speak “Christianese,” they know all the

right things to say, but the honoring of Jesus is with their lips only, nothing with their hearts.

1. Their worship does not reach Jesus.
2. Their teachings are all about the desires of men.
3. The “Wanna be.” The Wanna be has a desire to be a disciple

maker and they are almost there; however, they are not willing to invest the time into you that is required. They will be quick to say to you “thus says the Lord,” but simply are not willing to invest the amount of time in you required to truly teach you and show you the way, the truth and the life.

The ‘wanna be” will tell you what the Word of God says but he or she will not show you how to apply it. One reason is there is not much application in their own life. They can’t teach application if they don’t actively apply. They have a laundry list of instructions, but no diagrams showing how. They are what I call “Copperfields.” They tell you what the Word of God says and then disappear. They are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.

**Luke 14:27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.**

Part of bearing your cross is being willing to do all that is required to make a disciple.

**Luke 14:33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple**.

Most people are just too busy to do what it takes to be a disciple; therefore, it is impossible for them to make a disciple.

1. The “Disciple Maker.” The Disciple Maker will tell you thus

says the Lord and you will truly receive instructions from them that is grounded in The Word of God. They strive in their daily walk to walk with Jesus. The Word of God is reflected throughout their life. Their instruction is grounded on an intimate love relationship with a Savior, Jesus Christ. They teach you, you are empowered by the Holy Spirit and that through the GRACE of God you have been saved and been made Holy. They teach you that because of His grace you can live in Truth which is living in freedom because the Truth sets you free.

**Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**

**Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”**

**Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.**

They truly understand the Great Commission is great because it requires a great deal of them. In fact it requires all of them.

**Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*—**

**Luke 14:33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.**

And they never stop working and striving for the Kingdom!

**Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus *as* the Christ.**

When you find this person, when you get linked to a Disciple Maker, STAY WITH THEM!!! They will lead you in a path of righteousness. You will see in their lives how important a love relationship with Jesus Christ is and nothing will deter that. The compass they use to instruct you will always be pointed due north which is pointed to Jesus Christ and Him alone.

Who are you today? It is a serious question and one you must answer. Have you had an encounter with Jesus, perhaps even this morning? Are you sitting there right now thinking I don’t even know what this means, but I need Jesus? Then surrender! NOW!

* Admit that you are a sinner.
* Believe that Jesus Christ is the answer to my problem.
* Confess Him as Lord, knowing that means you are willing to surrender control of your life into His hands,

What about the rest of you? Who are you?

* A Tickler
* A Destroyer
* A Pretender
* A Wanna Be
* A Disciple Maker

Four of the five will have their handprints on the backs of many souls as they shove them into the confines of hell. Those who are pushed over the edge, know this, those that pushed you, will be joining you soon!

Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.