

FALSE BRETHREN – LESSON 26(ABC)

QUESTIONS

2 Cor 11:26

in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;(NKJ)

Gal 2:4

And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),(NKJ)

WHAT SCRIPTURAL TESTS WOULD YOU USE TO DETECT “FALSE BRETHREN”?

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND TO A FALSE BROTHER?

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ANSWERS

DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

FRUIT TEST

2 Tim 3:10

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,(NKJ)

Paul declares that Timothy not only knew his doctrine, but also his manner of life. Accurate doctrine does not validate one's authenticity. Manner of life is a more important determinant of one's genuineness. Conduct is the product of one's heart.

Matt 12:35

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.(NKJ)

Good things come from a good heart.

Fruit(manner of life) reflects the state of one's heart.

False brethren are deficient in the fruit of the Spirit.

Jude declares that these men crept in unawares.

Jude 1:4

For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.(NKJ)

The word crept is used for serpents. Jude ascribes a serpentine quality to these brothers.

Jude 1:8-13

8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

Jude 1:16-19

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

17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.(NKJ)

Jude outlines some of their qualities.

Reject authority.

Speak evil of dignitaries.

Speak evil of whatever they do not know.

Follow the way of Cain(kill their brothers).

Error of Balaam(propelled by money).

Perished in the rebellion of Korah(swallowed by the earth-worldly).

Serving only themselves.

Wandering stars(cannot give direction).

Grumblers and complainers.

Walking according to own lusts.

Sensuality

Cause divisions.

THEY DO NOT HAVE THE SPIRIT(THEY ARE NOT SAVED)

ASSOCIATION TEST

Heb 11:24-26

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.(NKJ)

When Moses discovered that he was not the son of Pharaoh's daughter, he separated himself from the culture of the Egyptians. He chose suffering rather than the pleasures of sin.

True brothers separate themselves from worldliness.

True brotheres are not comfortable in the culture of the world.

True brothers do not identify with sinful worldly patterns(Babylonian culture).

2 Cor 6:14-18

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?
15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?
16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."
17 Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."
18 "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."
(NKJ)

LANGUAGE TEST

Judg 12:4-6

4 Now Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. And the men of Gilead defeated Ephraim, because they said, "You Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites and among the Manassites."
5 The Gileadites seized the fords of the Jordan before the Ephraimites arrived. And when any Ephraimite who escaped said, "Let me cross over," the men of Gilead would say to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" If he said, "No,"
6 then they would say to him, "Then say, 'Shibboleth'!" And he would say, "Sibboleth," for he could not pronounce it right. Then they would take him and kill him at the fords of the Jordan. There fell at that time forty-two thousand Ephraimites.

(NKJ)

The Ephraimites declared war on the Gileadites, because their support was not enlisted by Jephthah in his battle against the Ammonites.

The victorious Gileadites took possession of Jordan. The Ephraimites had to cross Jordan to escape.

The Gileadites had a problem distinguishing between themselves and the Ephraimites, as both looked alike. However, the Ephraimites could not pronounce the "H".

The word "SHIBBOLETH" was used to determine their identities. The Ephraimites pronounced the word as "SIBBOLETH".

42000 Ephraimites were identified through this method and killed.

SHIBBOLLETH MEANS BRANCH.

SIBBOLETH MEANS BURDEN

Jer 23:5

"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

(NKJ)

Isa 4:2

In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped.(NKJ)

Isa 11:1-2

1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.(NKJ)

Zech 6:12-13

12 "Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: "Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the LORD;

13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." (NKJ)

BRANCH IS USED TYPICALLY OF JESUS AND HIS CHURCH.

False brothers do not speak enthusiastically about Jesus and his Church. They are more concerned about their own burdens. Their language never edifies. False brothers cannot

take possession of Jordan(a type of the Spirit-filled Word).

SOME COMMON COMMENTS AND BEHAVIOURAL PATTERNS OF FALSE BROTHERS:

THEY CLAIM THAT THERE ARE CLIQUES IN THE CHURCH. IN FACT
THEY FORM THEIR OWN CLIQUES OUTSIDE OF THE LEADER AND HIS
SUPPORTERS.
ACCUSE SET MAN OF NOT CARING FOR THE CONGREGATION. THEY
SAY THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED MANY COMPLAINTS.
COMPLAIN BECAUSE THE SET MAN DID NOT CONSULT WITH THEM.
THEY CLAIM TO KNOW SECRET SINS OF THE SET MAN.
THEY MAKE SUGGESTIONS AND HINTS THAT PLANT SEEDS OF
DOUBT IN THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE.
THEY HAVE CONSTANT CONFLICT WITH THE ARMOURBEARERS OF
THE SET MAN.
THEY SAY THE MEETING WAS GOOD, BUT.....
THEY GET ANGRY WHEN THE SET MAN IS PRAISED.

SUFFERING TEST

Gal 6:17

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.
(NKJ)

The marks of Jesus represent his suffering for others.

Paul's sufferings were for others.

He suffered so that others could breakthrough.

He was frequently in travail.

Gal 4:19

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,(NKJ)

1Thes 2:9

For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we
might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.(NKJ)

II Th 3:8

nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and
day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,

(NKJ)

False brethren suffer also – but for themselves.

They do not suffer conflict when they sin, because they are devoid of the Spirit.

EDIFICATION TEST

IKing 3:16-27

16 Now two women who were harlots came to the king, and stood before him.
17 And one woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house.
18 "Then it happened, the third day after I had given birth, that this woman also gave birth. And we were together; no one was with us in the house, except the two of us in the house.
19 "And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him.
20 "So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.
21 "And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son whom I had borne."
22 Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son." And the first woman said, "No! But the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son." Thus they spoke before the king.
23 And the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son, who lives, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! But your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'"
24 Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king.
25 And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other."
26 Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!" But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."
27 So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother."
(NKJ)

In this story, Solomon's wisdom was exposed when he identified the genuine mother. The true mother was prepared to suffer loss instead of seeing the child divided. True brothers build rather than divide. They are prepared to suffer loss.

2. RESPONSE TO FALSE BRETHREN

2.1 KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD

Jude 1:20-221

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

ON SOME HAVE COMPASSION

Jude 1:22

And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

SAVE WITH FEAR

Jude 1:23

but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

(NKJ)

THESE FOLK NEED TO BE SAVED.

SOME MUST BE CUT OFF/AVOIDED

1 Tim 1:19-20

19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,
20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

(NKJ)

2 Tim 2:16-18

16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.
17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,
18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

(NKJ)

Rom 16:17-18

17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.
18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

(NKJ)

SOLOMON CUT OFF JOAB, SHIMEI AND ADONIJAH.

SOME WOULD LEAVE ON THEIR OWN – SO DO NOTHING.

2 Tim 1:15

This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are

Phygellus and Hermogenes.
(NKJ)

DAVIDIC RESPONSE

Ps 56:5-13

5 All day they twist my words; all their thoughts are against me for evil.
6 They gather together, they hide, they mark my steps, when they lie in wait for my life.
7 Shall they escape by iniquity? In anger cast down the peoples, O God!
8 You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?
9 When I cry out to You, then my enemies will turn back; this I know, because God is for me.
10 In God (I will praise His word), in the LORD (I will praise His word),
11 In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?
12 Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God; I will render praises to You,
13 For You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?
(NKJ)

Ps 57:1-11

1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by.
2 I will cry out to God Most High, to God who performs all things for me.
3 He shall send from heaven and save me; he reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.
4 My soul is among lions; I lie among the sons of men who are set on fire, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.
5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be above all the earth.
6 They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down; they have dug a pit before me; into the midst of it they themselves have fallen. Selah
7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise.
8 Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn.
9 I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations.
10 For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, and Your truth unto the clouds.
11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be above all the earth.
(NKJ)