



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

Among Us: The Hidden Threat in the Midst of God's People

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Devotion and Discussin Questions

Key Texts: 2 Peter 2.:1-3; Mark 13:22-23; Matt. 24:11-13; Jer. 23:25-27; Matt 10:33; Luke 17:1-3; Jer. 6:123; Is. 30:21; Ezek. 3:17-19; 33:7-9

The prophets of old didn't speak from their own will, their own agenda, or their own desire. *"For no prophecy was ever brought forth by human will; rather, people spoke from God as they were moved by the Ruach ha-Kodesh"* (2 Peter 1:21). What they spoke came from the Holy Spirit.

But even in the "good old days," false prophets arose *among* the people—inside the camp, not just outside it. Peter warns that just as it happened then, it will happen now. Yeshua Himself warned that *"false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and show signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, the chosen. So be careful... I've told you everything in advance"* (Mark 13:22–23). The danger then, and now, is an inside threat—voices that sound familiar, even safe, but are stealthily introducing something destructive. It's like the game "Among Us"—everyone looks the same, but a couple are imposters working from the inside to sabotage. In the Body of Messiah, those imposters are false teachers. Peter says they are among us, and their influence is deadly if left unrecognized.

1. STEALTH IN THE MIDST

Peter says false teachers *will* be among you—future tense—but then quickly shifts to present tense later in the letter because they were already at work. He's pulling from Yeshua's own words on the Mount of Olives: "This will happen. Expect it."

These false teachers don't arrive with a big announcement. They *secretly bring in destructive heresies*. In Peter's time, the word *hairesis* (αἵρέσεις) meant factions or destructive opinions—not just doctrinal deviation as we think of "heresy" today. They bring in ideas that fracture, that pull people away from Yeshua's way, all while blending into the congregation.

Because they're "in your midst," their voice begins to sound normal. You can become accustomed to it. That's why we must keep running back to the Word of God—the word that came not by human will but by the Holy Spirit. Our discernment must be anchored there, not in popularity or personality.

2. DENYING THE MASTER WHO BOUGHT THEM

Peter says they *deny the Master who bought them*. The word for Master here is *despotes*—the one with absolute authority, the owner of the house. Denial here isn't always verbal; often it's by lifestyle. They live without restraint, giving license to whatever desires they want to indulge.

This is the same denial Yeshua warned about: *"Whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 10:33, TLV). It echoes Jeremiah's day, when false prophets claimed God's name but led people into forgetfulness of who He is. They could still say "This is the Temple of the Lord," just like today people can say "Yeshua is Lord," but the life behind the words says otherwise. When someone who has

been bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20) refuses to submit to the One who bought them, they are functionally disowning Him. That's rebellion against His Lordship, even if their teaching is wrapped in spiritual language.

3. POPULAR LIES THAT DAMAGE THE WAY OF TRUTH

Peter says *many* will follow them. This is *exakoloutheō* (ἐξακολουθήσουσιν)—a following away. It's anti-discipleship. They lead people away from following Yeshua into "immoral ways"—literally "without restraint." This can be sexual indulgence, but it's also indulging anger, greed, power, or pride—whatever the flesh craves.

And the damage doesn't stop there. Peter says the way of truth will be "maligned"—literally "blasphemed." Their greed and self-promotion twist God's Word for personal gain. They sell a shaped message (*plastois logos*) that misrepresents His character. The most dangerous taking of God's name in vain isn't unbelievers misusing His name—it's believers misrepresenting Him to the world. When leaders distort God's Word to feed their own appetites, they don't just lead individuals astray; they stain the public witness of the Gospel. Yeshua's warning is sobering: *"It'd be better... to have a millstone put around his neck and be hurled into the sea than for him to cause one of these little ones to stumble"* (Luke 17:2, TLV).

CONCLUSION

False teachers are not a possibility—they're a certainty. They were in Israel's past, in Peter's day, and they are here now. Their method is stealth, their heart is rebellion, and their effect is the blaspheming of the way of truth. God is patient—not wanting any to perish—but judgment will come, and it won't be delayed forever. That judgment begins with the household of God. We must be sure we are not complicit in leading others astray, that our words and our lives reflect the One who bought us. The best way to spot counterfeit is to know the real thing deeply. Stay grounded in the Word, dependent on the Spirit, and growing in the character of Yeshua.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Peter warns that false teachers will be among us rather than just outside the community?
2. How can we recognize when a teacher's life is denying the Master even if their words sound right?
3. What are examples today of "destructive opinions" that get introduced in subtle ways?
4. How does misrepresentation of God by His people damage the Gospel's reputation?
5. What practical steps can we take to guard ourselves and others from being led astray?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, we thank You for Your Word that is Spirit-breathed and true. Keep us anchored to what comes from You and not from the desires of man. Give us discernment to recognize when teaching or living denies the Master who bought us. Protect our hearts from deception and keep us from being complicit in damaging the way of truth. May our lives, by the power of the Ruach ha-Kodesh, reflect Your character in increasing measure.

In Yeshua's name, amen.