



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

Watch Out for These 3 Spiritual Red Flags

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Devotion and Discussin Questions

Key Texts: 2 Pet. 2:10-16; Jude 8-9; Num. 22-24; 2 Peter 1:4, 12; Matthew 10:33

Peter doesn't sugarcoat it—he says false teachers aren't just out there somewhere, they're among us. They're in our midst. And the scary part is, they're not walking around with a big sign saying "False Teacher." No, they come with stealth. They introduce opinions—just opinions at first—that are destructive. And those opinions are rooted in rebellion. Because at their core, they're rejecting the Master who bought them. That's not just casual disagreement—that's denial. That's repudiation of Yeshua Himself.

But here's the thing: they're popular. They're persuasive. They sound spiritual. They get followings. And before you know it, many are unfollowing Yeshua to follow them. Peter warns us, because if we're not grounded, if we're not discerning, we can get swept up too. What are some of the identifying marks of these false teachers?

1. REBELLIOUS ARROGANCE

Peter says they are "audacious and arrogant." That word for audacious means reckless, foolishly risky. They're not trembling where they should be trembling. Even angels—mighty, glorious beings—don't dare to speak presumptuously about things beyond them. Yet these false teachers speak boldly where they should be silent.

That arrogance shows a heart posture that says, "I know better than God." And arrogance is always a dangerous seed, because it blinds us to correction. Think of Balaam—he was a prophet, he knew God's voice, but his arrogance led him to ignore rebuke after rebuke, until a donkey had to set him straight! That's how far arrogance can blind us.

Here's the warning: arrogance against God's authority isn't just risky, it's destructive. It makes you deaf to rebuke, blind to truth, and ultimately sets you on a path of destruction.

2. CRAVINGS OF THE FLESH

Peter compares them to irrational animals—living by instinct, not reason. Animals just follow cravings. They're hungry? They eat. They're in heat? They mate. There's no reasoning, no restraint. That's how these false teachers live—just driven by cravings.

And yes, Peter highlights sexual immorality, but it's more than that. It's any craving that feeds the flesh: lust for power, desire for pleasure, hunger for recognition. At its core, it's self first. Yeshua said if anyone wants to follow Him, they must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him. But these teachers flip that: not denial of self, but indulgence of self. Not following Yeshua's way, but feeding their own way.

The danger isn't just what they do in private—it's their influence. Peter says they "entice unstable souls." They target those who aren't grounded, who aren't rooted in the Word. And if we're not growing, if we're not being strengthened in faith, we could be easy prey.

3. GREED

Finally, Peter says their hearts are "trained in greed." That word trained is the same as training in a gym. Their greed is in peak condition—it's been worked out, sharpened,

perfected. And it's not just money, though it includes that. It's an insatiable desire for more—more influence, more recognition, more indulgence.

That's why Peter points to Balaam. He loved "the wages of wickedness." He knew the right way. He heard God's voice. But he loved the payout. He wanted the reward of unrighteousness. And he pursued it until he nearly lost his life. Greed blinds us. Greed makes us justify anything. And greed always leads to curse—not blessing. But we're called to be different—to be people marked by generosity, humility, and trust in God's provision.

CONCLUSION

Peter doesn't hold back—false teachers are among us, and their marks are arrogance, fleshly cravings, and greed. And here's the sobering part: those things aren't just out there. They can creep into us too. Pride that says, "I don't need correction." Cravings that say, "I deserve this." Greed that says, "Just a little more."

But there's hope. Peter reminds us: *"The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trial"* (2 Peter 2:9). Balaam was rebuked by a donkey—that means even in our stubbornness, God still gives us moments to turn back.

So here's the call: Will you humble yourself before the Lord? Will you let Him expose arrogance, cravings, and greed in your own life? Will you choose Yeshua's way—the way of humility, self-denial, and generosity—over the destructive way of the false? If you've been drifting, this is the time to return. If you've been following opinions instead of the Word, now is the time to come back to the Master who bought you. The Lord is patient, not wanting any to perish. But don't mistake His patience for permission. Today is the day of repentance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How can we recognize "stealthy" opinions that sound spiritual but are actually destructive?
2. Why do you think arrogance is such a dangerous foundation for false teaching?
3. What does it mean to live by "cravings of the flesh" versus living by the Spirit?
4. In what ways can greed show up in our lives beyond just money?
5. How does remembering Yeshua's humility protect us from the paths of arrogance, cravings, and greed?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba Father, thank You for warning us through Your Word. We don't want to be among those led astray by arrogance, cravings, or greed. Forgive us where we've followed opinions instead of Your truth. Cleanse our hearts and strengthen our faith, that we may be rooted, stable, and fruitful in You. Keep us humble, generous, and full of Your Spirit. Guard us from deception, and help us to follow only Yeshua, the Master who bought us.

In Yeshua's name, amen.