First Fruits First Counterfeit June 1, 2022

*For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect* [Matthew 24:24].

The Lord warns us about the Last Days. Our enemy will counterfeit the signs and wonders of the Kingdom of God. There will be miracles. There will be healings. Does every “miracle” and every “healing” come from the Throne Room of our Sovereign God?

The idea that something supernatural will occur that does not reflect God’s will for His children is terrifying to contemplate. What will this look like? How will I know that what I’m seeing is of God?

Many have claimed to be prophets throughout history. These so-called “prophets” tell us what we want to hear. By using God’s name, they convince us God is behind what they declare. If a sign or wonder is associated with such statements, it will take a discerning ear and eye to distinguish fact from false. Even the elect may be deceived.

There are lots of warnings about false prophets within the Holy Scriptures. The easiest way to gauge veracity is the fruit of ministry. Watch and listen carefully. God loves compassion. It is by our love that the world will know us.

More than a miracle, has this “prophet” demonstrated a tender heart for the lost? Does he show compassion for the poor in spirit? Has she spent time with the needy, the broken, the outcast? Are his relationships functional? Is she transparent with her own sins?

*And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast our demons ... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover* [Matthew 16:17-18].

Signs and wonders follow those who believe. The key word here is “*follow.*” God is not asking us to follow signs and wonders. We seek the fruits that lasts. John 15:16 tells us, “*you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain.*”

These are the firstfruits of God’s kingdom. The firstfruits speak of the promise to come and confirm God’s eternal covenant with humanity. They are not a flash in the pan to wow the public. You will see when a prophet is bringing praise to God or if he (she) garners it for himself. The signs and wonders are there for us to see. You’ll recognize a counterfeit.

Look not for a miracle to show; Look for a miracle to confirm what you already know.