

Why do People
Forsake the Lord?

“Forsake”

- To leave someone who needs or counts on you; leave in the lurch
- Israel’s repetitive sin: “forsake the Lord”
 - Josh.24:16, So the people answered and said: “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods
20, If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good”

“Forsake”

- To leave someone who needs or counts on you; leave in the lurch
- Israel’s repetitive sin: “forsake the Lord”
 - Isa.1:28, The destruction of transgressors and of sinners shall be together, And those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed
 - Isa.65:11, But you are those who forsake the LORD, Who forget My holy mountain, Who prepare a table for Gad, And who furnish a drink offering for Meni

I. Some are not
truly converted

Israel

- Jer.2:32 . . . Jer.3:...10

Christians

- 1 Jn.2:19, They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us
 1. Obeyed gospel; fell away; no longer 'of us'?
 2. Simply went through motions (= Jer.3)?

Israel

Christians

- Some are baptized to join others...fit in with friends, please a relative...
- They fit in with very different crowd on other days...

“Sometimes converts who are born in excitement die when the excitement is over. They are like insects which are the product of an exceedingly warm day and die when the sun goes down” – Spurgeon

I. Some are not truly converted

II. Some are distracted
from the way

Hosea pictures problem with Israel

- 6:4, morning cloud
- 7:8, cake unturned
- 8:12, My law...strange thing
- 9:10, became an abomination
- 10:2, divided heart

Mark 4:19 pictures same [Jn.15]

Cares of the world

- To draw in different directions; distract ... signifies that which causes this, a care, especially an anxious care – Vine
- Lk.10:40, Martha...
 - “Innocent distractions”
- Pro.30:8-9
 - Two extremes, two dangers

Mark 4:19 pictures same

Deceitfulness of riches

- Money talks; much of it is a lie
- Wealth is not sinful, 1 Tim.6:10
 - Promises more than it can give
 - Roughly 1 out of 10 verses in the Bible deals in some way with materialism (??)

Satan doesn't have to lead us into immorality to destroy us; he needs only to simply shift our focus away from the prize

- Lk.8:14
 - Riches
 - May include things
 - Sinful in themselves. Gal.5:19-21
 - Innocent in themselves
 - Ph.3:19
 - Col.3:2

I. Some are not truly converted

II. Some are distracted from the way

III. Some are deceived

Mt.7:15-20

- Many would lead us on a broad road...
 - They succeed in part by deliberate deception – even self deception
 - In their case: clothes do not make the man. He may appear innocent

May avoid danger by considering their...

1. Teaching, 7:15 – false prophets

- Sheep's clothing – how to view it?
 - Figurative: Appearance of sincerity and truth. Ro.16:18
 - Literal: could include hairy mantel of the prophet, Zec.13:4. 2 K.1:8
 - General: neither idea is exclusive

Mt.7:15-20

1. Teaching, 7:15 – false prophets

- **Ravenous:** devouring, predatory, voracious
 - May teach Bible . . . or man's wisdom . . . or combination.

*Wear mask of righteous piety

*Carry Bible, accuse us of bibliolatry

*Talk about unity...fuel another split

*Preach love, condemn harshness...

*Speak about helping the church...

Mt.7:15-20

1. Teaching, 7:15 – false prophets
2. Manner of life, 7:16: fruits
 - Mt.23:2-3, not merely doctrine, but lives – are they righteous, faithful, humble...?

Mt.7:15-20

1. Teaching, 7:15 – false prophets
2. Manner of life, 7:16: fruits
3. Influence, 17-18: effects (of teaching and example)
 - At best, rotten trees take up space; at worst, the rot may spread to other trees.
 - Are their listeners growing in knowledge of truth, or being starved / poisoned?
 - Do people determine to live holy lives, or find an excuse to sin?
 - Jn.15:22

Mt.24:4, 5, 11

- It's bad enough that they believe false doctrine; worse that they lead others to destruction

2 Peter 2:1

- 1:16-21, Peter taught truth, not myths

‘Men can always be blind to a thing so long as it is big enough’ – G. K. Chesterton

- 2:1, but many who would reject truth, turn to myths

Balaam, 2 Peter 2:15

- Balaam said right words
- Balaam rejected every invitation of Balak to curse Israel; he blessed them instead
- But ... his love of money was greater than his knowledge of truth
- Nu.25, 31
 - Back door approach; brought disaster on people of God and got his money anyway
 - Balaam loved money.
 - Israel loved immorality.

Fatal
combination