

## **Don't Trust Me!**

**5-26-13**

It is not often that someone tells us "don't trust me". What we mean is this: one should never take the word of another person on a matter of divine importance without seeking out the mind of God. How many times have we been to a funeral and the speaker tells us that the deceased is "in heaven now". They do not know that; it is an absolute lie. But they justify such because it comforts those in the audience.

In I Kings 13 we meet two prophets; an older man of God, and a younger one. The younger one was on a mission with three simple rules: do not stop, do not eat/drink, do not return the way you came. He preached his message and upon returning, was met by the older man of God. "God has told me you can come eat with me" the older man said. And the younger man believed the lie, and was killed for disobedience. The older prophet may have been much like the preacher who tells the audience that the deceased is in heaven; he wanted to bring some comfort, but in the end, because the younger man believed the lie, it was the younger man of God who died.

In Acts 17 we read about Paul preaching to the Bereans. When he did so, they searched the scriptures daily to see if he was telling them the truth. It was not because Paul was untrustworthy; he preached with the power of the Holy Spirit. It was because the Bereans knew that you cannot take a message that is claimed to be from God without verifying its authenticity. We know they were called noble minded for this double-check. Imagine what would have happened to the younger man of God had he done the same.

We can find three types of "fact checks" called upon in scriptures. First, you must test the spirits (I John 4:1-3). In the context of I John, John is warning us about "antichrists" (false teachers) and their false messages. We must test the message (i.e. the inspired or "spirited" message) spoken to see if it is the truth. Second, you must test your teachers (Revelation 2:2). Jesus said that we can sometimes know a false teacher by their fruits (Matthew 7). Finally, you must test yourselves (II Corinthians 13:5). Jeremiah once said that the heart is the most deceitful thing (Jeremiah 17:9); perhaps it is because it is the teacher we will almost always listen to without checking the truth.

The point is, take NOTHING on its face value. The preacher may have the best of intentions but still mislead or deceive. He may be wrong, like Apollos, and needs to be corrected himself. Get your Bibles out when in class or at a sermon. When the Bible is quoted, you need to have your Bible open to that passage. It would be a horrible thing to suffer a fate worse than that of the younger prophet (Hebrews 10:28-29) because we did not open our Bible