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## Followers of Jesus Christ...SUF

oncerning the <u>FIRST</u> sign of the END OF THE WORLD, Jesus said, "TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN DE-CEIVE YOU" (MATT. 24:4). And yet, men and women have overwhelmingly fallen victim to thousands of *covetous ministers*.

These wicked men and women lay their snares while quoting to their followers the words of Jesus:

"GIVE [MEANING GIVE TO THEM, NOT TO THE POOR], and it shall be GIVEN unto you; GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, and SHAKEN TOGETHER, and RUNNING OVER, shall men give into YOUR bosom" (LUKE 6:38).

And, the people GIVE, making these hungry covetous wolves RICH, and people DO SO, because they are ignorant of the Word of God, and have **NEVER REPENTED**, to be born again!

These religious ministries have become a billion-dollar industry, but Jesus told the rich young ruler,

"If thou wilt be PERFECT [COMPLETE], go and SELL that thou hast, and GIVE TO THE POOR [NOT TO HIMSELF], and thou shalt have TREAS-**URE** in heaven: and **COME** and **FOLLOW ME** [TO BE IN THE SAME WAY WITH; TO ACCOM-PANY]" (MATT. 19:21).

Are **YOU** "in the same way with" Jesus? Or are **YOU TOO** as *covetous* as these *greedy ministers* who SPEAK "...ENTICING WORDS of man's wisdom" (1 COR. 2:4), and care for NOTHING but your riches and admiration?

A certain scribe came to Jesus and said, "Master, I will **FOLLOW THEE** [TO BE IN THE SAME WAY WITH] WHITHERSOEVER thou goest. And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes HAVE HOLES, and the birds of the air **HAVE NESTS**; but the Son of man **HATH** NOT where to lay his head" (MATT. 8:19-20).

In other words, Jesus is saying, ARE YOU SURE you want to *follow me*? These *covetous ministers* don't want to follow Jesus in poverty, they want their **CAKE NOW**, and they're getting it!

However, if you WANT TO BE a FOLLOWER of Jesus, you MUST BE WILLING to bear your cross! There is a **PRICE TO PAY** when you **FOLLOW** Jesus!

The WORLD, including FAMILY, will "...SEPARATE YOU from their company, and shall REPROACH you, and CAST OUT YOUR NAME as evil, for the Son of man's sake" (LUKE 6:22).

"...ve shall be **HATED OF ALL MEN** for my name's sake" (MATT. 10:22), "...they shall deliver you up to be AFFLICTED, and shall KILL YOU: and ye shall be **HATED OF ALL NATIONS** for my name's sake" (MATT. 24:9).

Jesus said, "...WHOSOEVER doeth not BEAR HIS CROSS [SELF-DENIAL], and COME AFTER me, CAN-NOT be my disciple" (LUKE 14:27).



The world, the **UNSAVED**, see these *men and* women as they truly are...for all of their HYPOC-RISY, and the REPROACH that they bring on the name of Jesus Christ, is **REVEALED** among men:

"For there is **NOTHING HID**, which shall not be MANIFESTED [TO RENDER APPARENT]; neither was ANY THING kept secret, but that it should COME **ABROAD"** (MARK 4:22; LUKE 8:17).

In the picture above, if Oral Roberts (seated), could come back from the dead, he would PREACH the sermon he SHOULD HAVE PREACHED while he was *alive*: "**REPENT YE**: *for the kingdom of heaven* is at hand" (MATT. 3:2; 4:17).

These preachers have no worries AT ALL in this world; they have their jets, their homes, their wealth, their cars, their reputations; and their children inherit all of their goods.

But, in this world, these hypocrites "...HAVE THEIR REWARD" (MATT. 6:2, 5, 16), because "WOE UNTO YOU, when ALL MEN shall speak WELL OF YOU! For so did their



fathers to the FALSE PROPEHTS" (LUKE 6:26).

If these "generation of VIPERS" were followers of Jesus Christ, the WORLD would HATE THEM, for NO SERVANT IS "...GREATER THAN HIS LORD" (JOHN 13:16).

Jesus said, "If the world HATE YOU, ve know that it HATED ME BEFORE IT HATED YOU. If ve were OF THE WORLD [AS THESE MINISTERS OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS ARE], the world would LOVE HIS OWN: but because ye are NOT OF THE WORLD, but I have CHOSEN YOU OUT OF THE **WORLD**, therefore the world **HATETH** YOU" (JOHN 15:18-19).

It has been noted from the **BEGINNING** of the church, that FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST "...MUST through MUCH TRIBULATION enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). Therefore, "...ALL that will live GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS shall SUFFER PERSECUTION" (2 TIM. 3:12).

But, this "PROSPERITY GOSPEL" that is being preached, is the forerunner of what is called the "LAODICEAN CHURCH," better known as the "LUKEWARM CHURCH."

After the TRUE church meets our Lord in the air, this <u>lukewarm</u> church with the <u>membership</u> of millions will be **LEFT BEHIND!** 

"...because thou art LUKEWARM, and neither COLD nor HOT, I will SPUE THEE out of my mouth...because thou sayest, I AM RICH, and **INCREASED** with goods, and HAVE NEED of nothing" (REV. 3:16-17).

