

SMELLS LIKE SMOKE

PART 2

SEE CLEARLY. STAY FAITHFUL.

JUDE 5-16



JUDE 5-16 DEEP DIVE

Discernment Keeps You From Deception

Smoke or haze can make it difficult to see clearly. The world is full of counterfeit voices & influences competing for us. **Amplification doesn't equal authentication.** We must test everything and everyone—including the pastor—against Scripture.

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Discernment keeps you from **deception**.



Counterfeit freedom leads to **bondage**.



If it's fake, it will eventually **break**.

JUDE 5-16 OVERVIEW



VV. 5-7 THREE EXAMPLES OF JUDGMENT

- Israel in the wilderness – unbelief after deliverance
- The rebellious angels – rejected God's boundaries
- Sodom & Gomorrah – pursued desires outside God's design

The root issue: "I will decide for myself."



VV. 8-10 CHARACTERS OF COUNTERFEIT VOICES

- Trust their own visions & feelings
- Reject authority
- Speak arrogantly about what they don't understand



VV. 11 THREE HISTORICAL WARNINGS

- Cain – self-made worship (Gen. 4)
- Balaam – profit-driven compromise (Num. 22-24; 31:16)
- Korah – rebellious authority (Num. 16)

*Three counterfeit pathways:
self-worship → profit → rebellion*

JUDE'S POWERFUL IMAGERY (VV. 12-13)



Clouds without rain



Autumn trees without fruit



Wild waves producing shame



Shepherds feeding themselves



Wandering stars headed toward darkness

Matthew 7:16 (NIV)

**"By their fruit
you will recognize them."**

THE REAL ISSUE

It's not just what they say.
It's where their message takes you.

Does it lead to Jesus or to the speaker (or to self)?

QUESTIONS TO ASK ANY VOICE

(INCLUDING THE PASTOR, INFLUENCERS, PODCASTS, ETC.)

- 1 Does this voice submit to God's authority?
- 2 Does this make God more authoritative or the speaker?
- 3 What fruit does this voice produce?
- 4 Where does the road end with this voice? To the speaker or to Jesus?



LOOK INWARD WITH THE SAME QUESTIONS

We must get a handle on ourselves before we try to handle everything outside of us.

Examine yourself.

- 1 Do I submit to God's authority?
- 2 When I speak, do I make God more authoritative or myself?
- 3 What fruit is my life producing?
- 4 Where does the road I'm walking end—with more of me, or more of Jesus?

2 Corinthians 13:5 • James 1:22-24
Matthew 7:3-5

WHY IT MATTERS

Counterfeit voices can look spiritual, sound biblical, and even produce short-term results—yet still lead us away from the truth and into destruction. **Discernment protects your heart, your faith, and your future.**



SCRIPTURE IS THE STANDARD

Nobody gets an exemption from God's Word. Pastors don't. Influencers don't. Followers don't.

**Scripture judges the teacher;
the teacher does not judge Scripture.**



ACTION STEP

Do a Voice Audit this week. Ask these questions. Take notes. Repent where needed. Follow Jesus more closely. Stay in the Word. Stay discerning. Stay faithful.

VOICE AUDIT

TAKE SOMETHING YOU REGULARLY INGEST:



podcast, social media, influencer, book, sermon, teaching, etc. Run it through the questions.

Adjust what you follow. Guard your heart.

DISCERNMENT WITHOUT SELF-EXAMINATION BECOMES JUDGMENT.
SELF-EXAMINATION WITHOUT SCRIPTURE BECOMES SELF-JUSTIFICATION.
BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT REQUIRES BOTH.

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