

Remnant Life Church
10.17.21
Spotting the Counterfeit – Part 1
Genesis 39:1-12

- It is virtually impossible to tell what is real and what is not when watching a movie today
 - CGI – computer generated imagery
 - The lines of real and fake have not blurred but have been completely wiped away
- The word counterfeit is something that we are all familiar with and a concept that is much more prevalent in our culture today -
- The first word we generally associate that word with is money
 - Counterfeiting money has been in existence as long as we have used currency
 - Prior to that time people traded goods and services for one another from which the word barter was eventually created
 - The first currency were coins created by the Greeks in 600 BC
 - Paper money was first used in China in the 1200s
 - Made from the wood of the Mulberry tree
 - Guards were posted around the Mulberry forest to prevent thieves from taking the wood to produce counterfeit money
- Collectors also have to be careful regarding real versus counterfeit
 - Art collectors spend millions to insure their pieces
 - Wolfgang Beltracci Fisker 70 yr old German painter who made millions as an art forger
 - Sold a painting that he attributed to German painter Max Ernst but he actually painted for 7 mil
 - One of his hung forgeries in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC for several years
 - Autographs/Historical signatures – COA's with pictures
 - Abraham Lincoln; John Adams; Thomas Jefferson - **\$100 - 150K**
 - Rarest - William Shakespeare – only 6 known - **5 million**
 - GW signed book with notations in the margins and his personal, signed copies of the Dec. of Ind. and Bill of Rights – **9.8 million**
- Where do we see counterfeit in the Bible?
 - First – Garden of Eden

READ - Genesis 3:1-6

- A counterfeit is a lie
 - Satan lied to Eve and caused her to substitute the truth with a lie
 - ***The purpose of a counterfeit is to cause a person to believe something that is not true***
 - God had given Adam and Eve everything in perfection – there was no sin, no pain, no death and they had superhuman minds
 - Satan brought a counterfeit to the truth of what God had created

- He is doing the same thing today - *clever not creative*
- Effective counterfeits cannot be easily spotted
 - **2 Peter 3:17** – the apostle warns the readers that they must be aware of what is happening around them so that they “...*may not be carried away by the error of the lawless...*”
 - They would be carried away only if they were fooled
 - Satan will take what is genuine and twist it just enough to keep it looking real but in reality it is a fake and NOT WHAT GOD DESIRES FOR YOU
 - Will we always fall for the counterfeit?
- Take heart - they can be seen for what they are

READ - Genesis 39:6-12

- In the time of Joseph
 - The slaves belonged to the masters
 - No rights, no unions, no political groups
 - Potiphar’s wife could demand anything she wanted from any of her slaves
 - Joseph saw the counterfeit of her desires and fled
 - With spiritual eyes we can see through the counterfeit
- The New Testament warns many times of **false prophets** – counterfeit prophets who do not speak the truth of the Bible or of Jesus
 - Paul, Peter, John and all those who wrote the books of the NT took time to warn and teach the readers about genuine versus false
 - (Jesus) “*Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.*” **Matt. 7:15**
 - *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves.*
II Peter 2:1
 - *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.* **II Cor. 11:3-4**
- Anything that God does or has done Satan wants to twist, pervert and bring counterfeits to keep us from having in our lives all that God desires - Why?
 - If we live with counterfeit we live with lies
 - It keeps us from true fellowship with the Father
 - To discourage us from a promise that we have been given

- It keeps our churches focused on things that are not important
- It dulls our hearts to the sin of the world and the lost
- It weakens our power in the Holy Spirit

- A word of encouragement:
 - You can learn to spot the counterfeit
 - If you put into practice daily a few simple guidelines regarding your decisions, they will become obvious.
 - What if I'm wrong and it was genuinely from God and I missed it?
 - With a sincere heart that desires the things of God He will not let us miss His will
 - *Jonah 3:1 – Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time.*

- A life-long journey for the Christian is to determine what God wants for us and how to live that in our day to day lives