THE BOOKFOLIO

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THE FALSE JESUS VS. THE REAL JESUS

A SERMON

KNOW THE REAL JESUS



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A Sermon by Terrell Powell

Scripture is from the King James Version. The words of Jesus are printed in red, the way Terrell wrote them.

Introduction: The False Jesus vs. The Real Jesus We live in a world where many people talk about Jesus, but not everyone is talking about the real Jesus. There are a lot of ideas about who Jesus is, but not all of them match what the Bible says. Some people have made their own version of Jesus to fit what they want to believe. But as Christians, we must know the difference between the real Jesus and the false versions. Today, we are going to talk about a few of these false ideas about Jesus and compare them to what the Bible teaches about who Jesus really is. --- I want to start by thanking our Father for giving me the chance to speak to my brothers and sisters in Christ today. Let me quickly share how I got today's message. I've always wanted to talk about the prophet Elijah and the false god Baal. This story has been on my heart for a while now. I believe that sharing this event will be a great way to introduce the message I have for you today. This scripture from 1 Kings 18:21-22 connects well with the message about The Fake Jesus vs. The Real Jesus. It shows the same choice we face today: whether to follow the true God (the real Jesus) or false beliefs (the fake Jesus). Let's break it down: Elijah's Message: Elijah told the people of Israel to stop being unsure about who to follow: the LORD or Baal, a false god. This is similar to how people today are unsure about who the real Jesus is. Just like Israel was tricked by the prophets of Baal, people today are misled by false teachings about Jesus. They might follow a "Jesus" that suits them (like a Jesus who only brings wealth or is just nice), but that's not the true Jesus from the Bible. Choosing the Real Jesus: Elijah said, "If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." He was asking the people to make a choice. The sermon is also asking us to choose the real Jesus, not the fake ones. Just because a

lot of people follow fake versions of Jesus (like Baal's 450 prophets) doesn't mean they're true. The real Jesus, like the LORD in Elijah's story, may not be the most popular, but He's the only one who can save us. Silence of the People: The people didn't respond to Elijah's challenge, just like people today often don't make a decision. They might stay with a fake version of Jesus because it doesn't ask them to change or be responsible. Conclusion: Just like Elijah called people to follow the true God, the sermon challenges us to follow the real Jesus from the Bible, not the fake versions the world gives us. The real Jesus is calling us to stand firm and choose to follow Him fully. --- ### **Sermon Title**: *The Fake Jesus vs. The Real Jesus* --- **Introduction:** - Today, we'll talk about some wrong ideas people have about Jesus. - These ideas are not what the Bible says. - We'll look at ten different "fake" versions of Jesus. - By understanding these wrong ideas, we can follow the real Jesus in the Bible. --- **1. The "Nice Guy" Jesus:** - Some people think Jesus is just nice and never says anyone is wrong. - They believe this Jesus doesn't ask people to stop doing bad things. - **How the World Sees Him**: People like this idea because they can do whatever they want. - **How It's in the Church**: Some churches only talk about happy things and avoid talking about sin. - **Scripture**: In John 8:11, Jesus is kind to a woman caught in sin but also says, "Go and sin no more." Jesus is kind but also tells us to stop doing wrong. - **Lesson**: The real Jesus loves us but also wants us to live right. He helps us change. --- **2. The "Money and Success" Jesus:** - Some believe Jesus will make them rich if they have enough faith. - **How the World Sees Him**: This idea is popular because people want money and success. - **How It's in the Church**: Some churches teach that believing in Jesus will make you

rich. - **Scripture**: In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus says, "Store up treasures in heaven," not on earth. Jesus wants us to focus on things that last forever, not just money. - **Lesson**: The real Jesus doesn't promise us money. He offers us eternal life. --- **3. The "Everyone is Right" Jesus:** - Some believe all religions lead to God and that Jesus is just one way. - **How the World Sees Him**: People like this idea because it means no one is wrong. - **How It's in the Church**: Some churches don't teach that Jesus is the only way to God. - **Scripture**: In John 14:6, Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." This means Jesus is the only way to God. - **Lesson**: The real Jesus is the only way to God. We must follow Him alone. --- **4. The "Feel-Good" Jesus:** - Some think Jesus just wants us to be happy all the time. - **How the World Sees Him**: This idea is nice because it makes life seem easy. - **How It's in the Church**: Some churches focus on making people feel good and avoid talking about the hard parts of following Jesus. - **Scripture**: In Luke 9:23, Jesus says, "Whoever wants to follow me must deny themselves and take up their cross daily." Following Jesus can be hard, not just easy. - **Lesson**: The real Jesus wants us to follow Him, even when it's hard. True happiness comes from living for God. --- **5. The "Social Justice" Jesus:** - Some people think Jesus is just about helping the poor and fighting for fairness. - **How the World Sees Him**: This idea is popular with people who care about fairness. - **How It's in the Church**: Some churches focus only on helping others and forget about the message of salvation. - **Scripture**: In Matthew 23:23, Jesus says, "You should practice justice, mercy, and faithfulness." Jesus cares about fairness but also about our faith. - **Lesson**: The real Jesus cares about justice and our hearts. We need

both. --- **6. The "Mystical" Jesus:** - Some people think Jesus is all about spiritual experiences and miracles. - **How the World Sees Him**: This idea is exciting for those who like supernatural things. - **How It's in the Church**: Some churches focus too much on miracles and not enough on the Bible. - **Scripture**: In 2 Timothy 4:3-4, the Bible warns that people will turn away from sound teaching and chase after myths. We need to be careful not to get caught up in things that aren't true. - **Lesson**: The real Jesus did miracles, but He also taught the truth. We should follow what He says in the Bible. --- **7. The "Good Luck Charm" Jesus:** - Some people treat Jesus like a good luck charm, thinking He'll protect them from all harm. - **How the World Sees Him**: This idea is popular because it feels safe. - **How It's in the Church**: Some churches might teach that just believing in Jesus will make everything in life go well. - **Scripture**: In Matthew 5:45, Jesus says that God "sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." This means that being a Christian doesn't mean life will always be easy. - **Lesson**: The real Jesus is with us in good and bad times. He's not just a good luck charm. --- **8. The "Angry Judge" Jesus:** - Some people see Jesus as always angry and ready to punish them for every mistake. - **How the World Sees Him**: This view makes people afraid of Jesus. - **How It's in the Church**: Some churches focus too much on judgment and make people fear Jesus. - **Scripture**: In John 3:17, it says, "God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but to save it." Jesus came to save us, not just to judge. - **Lesson**: The real Jesus is just, but He is also loving and merciful. He wants a relationship with us, not just to point out our mistakes. --- **9. The "Freedom with No Responsibility" Jesus:** - Some people think following Jesus means they

can live however they want because His grace covers everything. - **How the World Sees Him**: This idea is attractive because it means no responsibility. - **How It's in the Church**: Some churches might talk only about grace and not about living a holy life. - **Scripture**: In Romans 6:1-2, Paul says, "Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means!" Grace is not an excuse to keep doing wrong. - **Lesson**: The real Jesus offers grace, but He also calls us to live a holy life. We must change and grow in our faith. --- **10. The "Political Savior" Jesus:** - Some people see Jesus as supporting their political views or agendas. - **How the World Sees Him**: This idea is used to justify political actions or beliefs. - **How It's in the Church**: Some churches might mix politics with faith, saying Jesus supports a certain party. - **Scripture**: In John 18:36, Jesus says, "My kingdom is not of this world." Jesus came to save souls, not to take sides in politics. - **Lesson**: The real Jesus is about God's kingdom, not earthly politics. Our loyalty should be to Jesus, not a political party. The Fake Jesus vs. The Real Jesus --- The "Alphabet People" Jesus: What Some People Think: Some believe Jesus supports any choice about love or identity. They think Jesus just wants people to be happy, no matter what. This view says Jesus doesn't care how people live, as long as they love others. The Real Jesus in the Bible: What the Bible Says: Love and Truth: Jesus loves everyone, but He also teaches how to live right. In John 8:11, He forgives a woman and tells her to "go and sin no more." God's Plan: The Bible says marriage is between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24). Jesus supports this in Matthew 19:4-6. Sin and Forgiveness: The Bible says certain actions, like sexual immorality (including same-sex relationships), are sins (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). But Jesus offers forgiveness and helps

people change (1 Corinthians 6:11). --- Celebrities Promoting a Fake Jesus: Oprah Winfrey: Says Jesus is not the only way to God. Creflo Dollar: Promotes wealth as a sign of faith, a "prosperity gospel." Joel Osteen: Focuses on happiness and success instead of sacrifice and truth. Rob Bell: Believes everyone will be saved, regardless of what they believe. Paula White: Preaches that financial success means God's favor. --- Key Differences: The "Alphabet People" Jesus accepts all choices without asking people to change. The real Jesus loves everyone but asks us to follow God's rules and live better. --- Conclusion: The "Fake Jesus" makes life easy, but he's not real. The real Jesus wants us to live for God, even when it's hard. Final Thought: Jesus loves us and forgives us, but He also wants us to follow God's way. **Conclusion:** - The "Fake Jesus" is what some people want Jesus to be, but He's not real. - The real Jesus is found in the Bible, and He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. - **Scripture**: In Matthew 7:22-23, Jesus says that just doing good things or saying the right words isn't enough. We need to really know Him and follow His true teachings. - **Final Thought**: Hebrews 13:8 reminds us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Jesus never changes, and we must follow the real Jesus, not these wrong ideas.

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Many voices describe a Jesus who never existed. This sermon sets the false Jesus beside the real Jesus of the Bible, side by side.

A SERMON BY TERRELL POWELL

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path."
PSALM 119:105 — KJV

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