

JEREMIAH: DON'T TRUST THESE LIES

This is the fourth in a series of five pieces about “Resurrecting Today’s Jeremiahs” The theme of this piece is “*Don’t Trust These Lies.*” In other words, teach people the naked truth about their flawed worship. Speak *only* God’s truth about their worship. Don’t advocate popular whoppers about worship

The Lord told Jeremiah to stand at the gate of the temple. Tell worshipers that their devotion was based upon whoppers. Not upon the truth of God’s Word. The Lord was concerned enough about popular opinions about worship, he told Jeremiah to stand in the temple gate and shout aloud about it:

“Do not trust in these lying words, saying, ‘The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.’ “

Let’s look carefully at what Jeremiah was saying: “*Do not trust in these lying words.*” He used the strongest adjective possible: “He called them *lying* words.” If they were harsh words in his time, consider what they mean today. We live in a very plural culture. There’s no such thing as either truth and lies. Post-modern minds do not tolerate the use of “lie.” It offends them. Some of our Christian brothers and sisters unfortunately agree with them.

Yet it’s stated right here in God’s Word. Some worship leaders have a hard time with this kind of tough talk. They don’t want to offend the so-called seekers. Yet God tells them to speak the truth as he gave it.

So what’s the *lie* that God addresses? “‘The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these [lying words].’” (7:4). Caught up in a popular religious fad, the people chanted them again and again, time after time, “The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord,” believing that such religious repetition pleased God and brought glory.

We have the same manner of religious craze today. Worship leaders promise the presence of the Lord, the presence of the Lord, the presence of the Lord, just by again and again singing stirring lyrics. However, God’s presence is his gracious gift to those who worship with a broken and contrite heart. (Psa. 51:17)

Sounding out “ The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord” doesn’t create worship. Clapping out “The presence of the Lord, the presence of the Lord” doesn’t rein in God Such mantras don’t make true worshipers, or make humble obeisance to the Lord, or stir practitioners to serve the poor, and the oppressed. Believing such whoppers about worship simply blinds us to God’s real truth.