

Luke 6:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Analysis

Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you for so did fathers to false prophets. Woe ouai judgment. All men pantes anthrōpoi universal approval. Speak well eipōsin kalōs positive reputation. Fathers pateres ancestors. False prophets pseudoprophētais false messengers. Final woe. Universal human approval is warning sign. False prophets popular told people what they wanted hear. True prophets often rejected. Popularity can indicate compromise. Cannot please God and man. Reformed theology emphasizes faithful proclamation regardless popularity. True preachers speak God truth not human preferences.

Historical Context

False prophets popular told kings what they wanted hear (1 Kings 22 Micaiah versus 400 false prophets). Jeremiah Ezekiel warned against false prophets promising peace when no peace. False teachers smooth words tickle ears (2 Tim 4:3). Truth often unpopular. Jesus warned world will hate you (John 15:18). If world loves you question whether you truly His. Early church faced opposition. Popular teachers compromised. Faithful preachers persecuted. Medieval church popular powerful compromised. Reformers unpopular faithful. Modern church celebrity pastors often compromise for popularity. Faithful prophetic preaching risks reputation. Cannot serve two masters. Must choose God approval or human.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why is universal human approval warning sign rather than validation of ministry?
2. How can ministers guard against compromising truth for popularity while still being winsome in presentation?

Interlinear Text

οὐαὶ ὑμῖν, ὅταν καλῶς ὑμᾶς εἴπωσιν πάντες οἱ
Woe unto you when well of you shall speak all G3588
G3759 G5213 G3752 G2573 G5209 G2036 G3956

ἄνθρωποι· κατὰ ταῦτα γὰρ ἐποίουν τοῖς ψευδοπροφήταις
men G2596 so ! for did G3588 to the false prophets
G444 G5024 G1063 G4160 G5578

οἱ πατέρες αὐτῶν
G3588 fathers their G846

Additional Cross-References

John 15:19 (Parallel theme): If ye were of the world, 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.

Matthew 7:15 (Prophecy): Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

James 4:4 (Parallel theme): Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Micah 2:11 (Prophecy): If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.

Isaiah 30:10 (Prophecy): Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

Jeremiah 5:31 (Prophecy): The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

John 7:7 (Parallel theme): The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

Romans 16:18 (Parallel theme): For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.