

Lent, Day 6
Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Revelation 2:18–29

I love movies with a twist. I especially love movies where the twist has been right in front of you the whole time. Movies like *The Usual Suspects* or *Inside Man*. These movies remind us that the threat is not always “out there,” but can be “in here.” Jesus is warning the church in Thyatira of the same thing. Watch out for Jezebel. Historically she was married to a Jewish king and she ultimately led him and Israel astray from worshipping God.

In this context, there was a prophet like Jezebel within the church who was encouraging Christians, to go ahead and get involved in pagan worship. This involved visiting temple prostitutes—the deep things of Satan. This would have been cloaked in language of being high minded, but Jesus will have none of it. His call is for the unfaithful to repent and the faithful to remain holding on firmly to the truth.

This passage gives us two things, at least, of which to be aware. First, we need to be careful who we have teaching us. Just because they sound spiritual that doesn’t mean they are Christian. The church has a responsibility to examine carefully those they are putting into a teaching position. Second, we must know the Scriptures. We should know Scripture well enough to discern the truth of Christ from the lie of Satan. It is subtle work which means we must be diligent in our task.

This is a great way to spend the season of lent; digging into Scripture and seeking to understand what it says. Christians are known as people of the book. John Wesley described the Methodist people as a people of one book. However, he went on to say that if they only ever read that one book (the Bible) they would never understand it. Wesley encouraged and expected his people, especially preachers and teachers, to study good resources to prepare and to equip them to expound Scripture appropriately. We should do no less for ourselves.

Prayer

Lord who searches our minds and hearts, search us out we pray. Grant us the desire to know your word well so we may discern your truth. Help us to stand firm at a time when we are being encouraged, both inside and out, to give into the prevailing culture. Amen.