

September 30, 1947.

Prophets 10.

She told me about a young man she had met who was studying to be a lawyer and he was very anxious that she should marry him and she said, "Why, you couldn't support me. You can't consider such a thing for another five years at least." "Well," he said, "I'll tell you what I'll do," he said, "I'll switch to theology," and he said, "Then I can get a student pastorate, I can get a car, I can get a little church, and we can get married right away." Well she said she told him not to bother, and so they didn't do it. Well now that man might have become a minister because he saw a way of getting an income immediately and he might never have had any thought of anything but preaching the truth. He had no desire to give anything, perhaps, but what was actually right. He'd go to Seminary and see what the people told him and then he'd go out and give that message. He wasn't interested in destroying people's faith, but his heart certainly wasn't in it in order to

He was in it simply for what he himself could get out of it. And from that attitude it is very easy to slip over into the attitude of becoming an imposter; from the attitude of giving the message or not according to what will bring you advantage, it is easy to slip over into the attitude of giving the particular message that you think people may want to hear and so it is very hard for us to judge others as to who is serving the Lord for his own advantage and who is not serving the Lord at all, who is an imposter or who is deluded and really thinks he is serving the Lord when he is serving the devil, but there is a mighty important thing there for us to judge ourselves to make sure that we really are serving the Lord, not merely giving the Lord's message because that is the way to advance ourselves, but giving the Lord's message because that is the way to serve the Lord, and if our motives are pure and we keep following Him we avoid the danger of becoming imposters which we may be, even giving a true message, if we are not giving it out of a heart dedicated to serving the Lord. Well when a man becomes an imposter it isn't very hard often for him to become deluded and to reach the point where he actually believes that what he says is actually true, to believe that he is a prophet or a messenger. He may vary in between. You can't divide between the imposter and the deluded and sometimes the true prophet can pass over into this other group, or that. It is a matter which means great care with us in judging ourselves. I don't think, fortunately, we have the responsibility of judging other individuals and decide, as a rule, whether they are true servants of the Lord or whether they are imposters.