

Prophets 10.

are only serving their own personal desires and their personal advantage. Now whether— there is a distinction there as we noticed yesterday, which is sometimes hard to draw between a man who truly gives God's message because he thinks he will profit by it and the man who takes the next step from there to giving the message which he thinks the people will pay him to give. It is a downward process which once begun can go a long way and it is difficult to say just where you pass from one stage to another. The important thing is for each of us to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord and be sure that we are serving for His glory and that alone, and not serving simply because by this means we secure the best advantage for ourselves. You wouldn't think this would be necessary to instruct this in dealing with people who are preparing to serve the Lord but alas, how many a person feels that they have made one great consecration, one wonderful sacrifice in turning their life over to serve the Lord and then seem to act as if from then on they can go right on looking out for their own desires, for the rest of their life. It is very, very easy to fall into and you will find, you will be shocked to find among the most godly people, often the greatest Christian leaders, that which will impress you as being a tremendous interest in their own personal advantage. Now sometimes we may misunderstand such cases. I do not think that we have the responsibility to judge them. Certainly the responsibility is the Lord's, not ours, but we have a very great responsibility to judge ourselves and to make sure that we realize that you can't serve the Lord simply by making one great consecration. It's a moment by moment, day by day proposition and we must be ready to constantly make our bodies a living temple and not think that we have done a wonderful thing in having once taken a stand to give our lives to the Lord. Now there is another reference in this line which is quite interesting, the prediction made by Zechariah in Zechariah 13, Zechariah 13:2-3 showing the depth to which the reputation of the prophets was to pass as a result of the result of the activities of the false prophets - And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land. Now to put the prophets and the unclean spirit right next to each other is of course a very clear evidence that He does not mean true prophets here. He means false prophets. The prophets and the unclean spirit, but it shows the prevalence of false prophets, that people should