

## #121 THE DREAM.....

*I am sitting in a large auditorium listening to a preacher speak as he rides a unicycle back and forth. He behaves clownishly and his preaching is filled with foolish jestings and much slander against ministers of the gospel. I also notice that this man is very obese and that he has much material wealth. I depart quickly.*

The unicycle, a one-wheeled object, symbolizes the preacher's one-track mind and motive. Repeatedly he proclaims his same gospel, the end being to make money and grow fat off the people. Through foolish clownings, jokes and slander of true ministers who proclaim the unadulterated words of God, He makes himself rich and fulfills his covetous desires. My friends, there are many out proclaiming the gospel (often a false gospel) for gain and evil motives!

Clowning and entertaining performances have no place in proclaiming the Word of God. God puts no clowns in His pulpits. Christ demands soberness and seriousness in those who minister for Him. This does not mean joy and peace are not present. Performers and clowns receive a jester's reward from their often worldly and carnal professing believers. They are not taken seriously.

Ministers that speak for gain, fame or selfish reasons can be very cunning and deceitful in their performances. At any expense they will attempt to keep their followers for self-gratification. These are the wolves in sheep's clothing. They truly come not to feed, but to feed upon the sheep. Wolves are relentless hunters---their goal to fill their bellies.

God's sheep must be able to discern the real shepherds from the false. We must use the Word of God to discern those on television and radio and in our pulpits. Look for these clues and you will be able to tell the difference between good and evil shepherds. Do they preach for fame? Do they court the attention and approval of the people, or do they seek God and His truths? Do they always speak a positive word and never reprove, rebuke or admonish in their sermons? Do they pacify and make you feel comfortable when you know you are not right before the Lord? Do they slander the ministers they think are too sober and gloomy in their preachings? Do they appear very prosperous in high living while they beg, demand and quote Scripture to solicit more money from you? Do they make most every sermon and speech a money-seeking adventure while promising you material rewards from God for giving? Do they appear proud in their speeches and lacking of any real humility? Shall we go on further? I think not, for if you can answer yes to any of the above, you may well have found a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Yet do not be surprised, for these most likely went into the "ministry" not because they were called of God but because they saw it as a profitable profession. Our pulpits are filled with ministers of these types---deceived and deceiving, whose end shall be according to their works. Let us take God's warnings seriously:

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears..." (II Timothy 4:3 KJV).

"...some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils..."(I Timothy 4:1 KJV).

We are wise to stay in God's Word and walk humbly before Him, for only then will we have eyes to see the difference between what is true and what is false.