

Sermon 講道信息 April 四月 30, 2023

By their fruit...憑著他們的果子

2 Peter 彼得後書 2:10b-16

The Sateré-Mawé, an indigenous Amazonian tribe, have a very powerful way of discerning who is a true warrior and who is not.

Sateré-Mawé 是一個土著亞馬遜部落，他們有一種非常強大的方法來辨別誰是真正的戰士，誰不是。

They sedate bullet ants and weave them into gloves made of leaves.

他們給子彈蟻鎮靜劑，並將它們編織進去樹葉製成的手套。

Now, you need to know that the sting of a bullet ant is like being shot.

現在，你需要知道被子彈蟻咬的刺痛就像被槍擊一樣。

The young warriors wear the gloves for several minutes.

年輕的戰士們戴著手套幾分鐘。

They must withstand the stings of hundreds of these ants as the ants emerge from their sedation.

當螞蟻從鎮靜劑中醒來時，他們必須承受數百隻螞蟻的蜇傷。

One sting causes unimaginable pain, and yet the young men must withstand the pain with restrained dignity (they cannot cry out).

一次刺痛會造成難以想像的痛苦，但年輕人必須以克制的尊嚴承受痛苦（他們不能哭喊）。

Facing this ordeal once would be sufficient to test anyone's toughness.

面對這種磨難一次，就足以考驗任何人的堅韌。

The young warriors must endure this test twenty times.

年輕的戰士必須經受二十次這樣的考驗。

Those who complete it become true warriors.

完成的人才成為真正的戰士。

As tough as the tribe's process is, it has an advantage:

儘管這部落採用的過程很艱難，但它有一個好處：

identifying those who are true and those who are false is easy

識別誰是真的，誰是假的變得很容易

– the true persevere, the false cry out or give up.

– 真戰士會堅持，假的只會哭喊或放棄。

However, discerning who false teachers are is not easy. Pastors don't carry a collection of bullet ants. 然而，辨別誰是假教師並不容易。牧師不攜帶子彈蟻。

Spotting false teachers and false teaching is often harder and usually takes longer.

發現假教師和假教導往往更難，通常需要更長的時間。

But it's not impossible, as today's passage shows us.

但這並非不可能，正如今天的經文向我們展示的那樣。

Let's quickly remind ourselves of what Peter has been saying.

讓我們趕緊提醒自己彼得一直在說的話。

He's told us that false teachers exist.

他告訴我們假教師是存在的。

He's told us that false teachers infiltrate congregations

他告訴我們，假教師滲透到會眾中

(perhaps in-person, but today often through books, teaching on YouTube, websites, even some popular preachers on TV).

（也許是面對面的，但今天經常通過書籍，在 YouTube 上教學，網站，甚至在電視上一些受歡迎的傳教士）。

And he's told us that false teachers face God's judgement.

他告訴我們，假教師要面對神的審判。

But we've also learned that judgement is a call to repentance and salvation.

但我們也知道，審判是對悔改和救恩的呼召。

Time and again in the Bible, God offers grace when he threatens judgement.

在聖經中，當神宣告審判時，他一次又一次地提供恩典。

We can confess our sin, turn from our wicked ways, and trust in God's love and justice shown at the cross and resurrection of Jesus.

我們可以承認我們的罪，轉離我們的邪惡行為，並相信神在耶穌的十字架和復活中表現出的愛和公義。

The tragedy, however, is some will not repent.

然而，悲劇是有些人不會悔改。

The false teachers are among these.

假教師就是其中之一。

So, the challenge is how to recognize them.

因此，挑戰在於如何識別他們。

Peter has started to answer this.

彼得已經開始回答這個問題了。

We recognize them by examining their teaching about who Jesus is and what Jesus has done.

我們通過檢查他們關於耶穌是誰以及耶穌做了什麼的教導來識別他們。

But sometimes, the error in their teaching doesn't immediately show itself.

但有時，他們教導中的錯誤不會立即顯現出來。

So, are there other signs? Yes.

那麼，還有其他跡象嗎？有的。

Today's passage tells us to watch for attitude and behaviour.

今天的經文告訴我們要注意態度和行為。

In the words of verse 10a: false teachers are "those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority."

第 10 節前部分的話說：假教師是「隨從肉體、放縱污穢的情慾、藐視主的權威的人。」

Their rejection of authority is their bad attitude.

他們對權威的拒絕是他們的不良態度。

Their corrupt desire is their bad behaviour.

他們的腐敗慾望就是他們的不良行為。

Peter exposes both.

彼得揭露了兩者。

This is a complicated passage.

這是一個複雜的段落。

Some details are strange and confusing.

有些細節很奇怪，令人困惑。

So, we must keep the main themes in focus.

因此，我們必須關注主要主題。

This passage splits into two.

這段話一分为二。

Verses 10-12 are about the false teachers' attitude.

第 10-12 節是關於假教師的態度。

Verses 13-16 are about their behaviour.

第 13-16 節是關於他們的行為。

Keep this in mind.

請記住這一點。

We may not understand all the details, but we can understand the focus:

我們可能不瞭解所有細節，但我們可以理解重點：

attitude and behaviour.

態度和行為。

So, what is the attitude?

那麼，態度是什麼？

The false teachers show contempt for authority.

假教師表現出對權威的蔑視。

Verse 10 says the false teachers "are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings."

第 10 節說，假教師「無懼地毀謗在尊位的。」

Before we explore this more, we need to ask who these "celestial beings" are?

在我們進一步探討這個問題之前，我們需要問一下這些「在尊位的」是誰？

They are not angels because the next verse says angels will not heap abuse on such beings.

他們不是天使，因為下一節經文說天使不會用毀謗的話。

They are distinct from angels.

他們與天使不同。

So, who are they?

那麼，他們是誰？

Last week I mentioned a strange first-century Jewish book called 1 Enoch.

上周我提到了一本奇怪的第一世紀猶太文獻，叫以諾一書。

Peter is referring to 1 Enoch and another first-century Jewish book called the Testament of Moses.

彼得指的是以諾一書和另一本第一世紀的猶太文獻，叫做摩西的見證。

In the Letter of Jude, this is even more explicit.

在猶大書中，這一點更加明確。

Jude quotes 1 Enoch and the Testament of Moses.

猶大引用了以諾一書和摩西的見證。

Jude explains how the archangel Michael dare not slander the devil.

猶大解釋天使長米迦勒如何不敢誹謗魔鬼。

So, the “celestial beings” are with the devil

所以，「在尊位者」與魔鬼同在

– they are demons, evil spirits.

– 他們是惡魔，邪靈。

But what makes it even more complicated is that the false teachers slander demons:

但更複雜的是，假教師誹謗魔鬼：

if they are as evil as the devil, why slander evil spirits?

如果他們像魔鬼一樣邪惡，為什麼要誹謗邪靈？

What’s wrong with heaping abuse on the devil and demons?

對魔鬼和惡魔進行辱罵有什麼問題？

The clue is a contempt for authority.

線索是對權威的蔑視。

The false teachers despise all spiritual authority and position.

假教師藐視一切屬靈的權威和地位。

In fact, the language is even stronger.

事實上，言詞甚至更強。

Verse 10 literally means there is no sense of terror in their blasphemy.

第 10 節的字面意思是，他們無懼地毀謗。

These false teachers are blatant in their arrogance.

這些假教師的傲慢是公然的。

But here’s the point: it matters not what the source of authority is

但重點是：權威的來源並不重要

– angelic or demonic, God or the devil – these false teachers don’t care!

– 天使或魔鬼，神或魔鬼 – 這些假教師都不在乎！

They have absolutely no moral sense of right and wrong, good and evil.

他們完全沒有道德上的是非、善惡意識。

They reject any authority that might impose a moral foundation.

他們拒絕任何可能強加道德基礎的權威。

How does this apply?

這如何應用？

I was brought up not to be rude towards a police officer, a schoolteacher, a parent, or anyone older than myself.

我從小就被教導不要對員警、學校老師、父母或任何比我年長的人無禮。

Sadly, for some, that's not always the case.

可悲的是，對於某些人來說，情況並非總是如此。

Catherine and I were leaders of a Friday evening youth ministry in the late 1980s.

凱薩琳和我是 1980 年代後期星期五晚上青年事工的領袖。

We were part of a church in an area known for its social needs.

我們所屬教會是在一個貧窮且需要很大的地區。

The aim was to reach local youth with the Gospel.

目的是將福音傳給當地青年。

Many of the youth were great.

許多年輕人都很棒。

But even though the church was trying to help youth, some only came because they wanted to cause trouble.

但是，即使教會試圖幫助年輕人，有些人只是因為他們想製造麻煩而來。

Catherine and I were spat at, the church building was damaged, and church property was stolen.

凱薩琳和我被吐口水，教堂建築受損，教堂財產被盜。

There was no respect for authority.

絕對沒有對權威的尊重。

But what about the false teachers?

但是假教師呢？

Why is heaping abuse on demons and the devil wrong?

為什麼對惡魔和魔鬼的毀謗是錯誤的？

Their arrogance leads them to distort spiritual realities

他們的傲慢導致他們歪曲屬靈現實

– whether the goodness of God or the evil of the devil; their arrogance

– 無論是神的良善還是魔鬼的邪惡;他們的傲慢

– their disrespect for authority

– 他們對權威的不尊重

– brings them to the place where they don't care about spiritual reality.

– 把他們帶到他們不關心屬靈的現實。

God doesn't matter; the devil doesn't matter.

神並不重要;魔鬼無所謂。

They don't respect the truth of the Gospel and the reality of God's judgement,

他們不尊重福音的真理和神審判的現實，

nor do they recognize the reality of evil.

他們也不承認邪惡的現實。

There's no accountability, there's no consequence, there's no moral boundary.

沒有責任，沒有後果，沒有道德界限。

That's a very dangerous place for them to be.

對他們來說，這是一個非常危險的地方。

I suggest to you that this way of thinking is rampant today.

我向你建議，這種思維方式在今天很猖獗。

Just talk about sin.

談談罪吧。

Many today do not believe in personal sin.

今天許多人不相信個人有罪。

They are quick to blame others, but any concept of personal sin is rarely considered.

他們很快責怪別人，但很少考慮任何個人有罪的概念。

What does this lead to?

這會導致什麼？

This: there's no such thing as the devil and God is irrelevant.

這：沒有魔鬼這樣的東西，神是無關緊要的。

Instead, all that matters is me.

相反，重要的是我。

I become my own god

我成為我自己的神

– I define what is good and what isn't.

– 我定義什麼是好的，什麼是不好的。

It is the fundamental sin of the Adam and Eve in Genesis 3: autonomy.

這是創世記 3 中亞當和夏娃的罪根：自主。

There's no objective truth to guide us.

沒有客觀的真理來指導我們。

So, moral boundaries, accountability, and consequence are lost.

因此，道德界限、責任和後果都消失了。

There's an important lesson here: God is good; evil exists.

這裡有一個重要的教訓：神是良善的；邪惡是存在的。

But if, like the false teachers, we trivialise the reality of evil or the reality of sin,

但是，如果我們像假教師一樣，輕視邪惡的現實或罪的現實，

it's not long before we become servants of evil and the spreaders of false teaching.

不久之後，我們就會成為邪惡的僕人和錯誤教導的傳播者。

And at that point, we lose understanding of the world as God created it.

在這一點上，我們失去了對神創造世界的原意的理解。

We lose touch with reality.

我們與現實脫節。

And anything goes – we can do as we like.

任何事情都可以進行 - 我們可以隨心所欲。

This is what happens to the false teachers.

這就是發生在假教師身上的事情。

Peter says they “blaspheme in matters they do not understand.”

彼得說他們「毀謗自己所不知道的事」。

They are, he says, no different from the animal world.

他說，他們與沒有理性的牲畜沒有什麼不同。

I love my dog Mikey.

我愛我的狗米奇。

But Mikey doesn’t reason, he’s driven by instinct.

但米奇不會講道理，他是出於本能。

And I can prove it.

我可以證明這一點。

Put a plate of food in front of him and he’ll eat it.

在牠面前放一盤食物，牠會吃掉的。

Put another, and he’ll eat that.

再放一盤，牠也會吃掉。

Put another, and he’ll eat that too.

再放一盤，牠也會吃的。

Eventually, he’ll throw up.

最終，牠會嘔吐。

But after he’s thrown up, he becomes biblical.

但是在牠嘔吐之後，牠就像變聖經所形容的。

Read 2 Peter 2:22.

讀彼得後書 2：22。

He returns to his vomit and attempts to eat that too!

「狗轉過來吃自己所吐的；」

Animals act on instinct not reason.

動物的行為是出於本能而不是理性。

When we forget God and dismiss evil, we are just as irrational.

當我們忘記神並摒棄邪惡時，我們同樣是非理性的。

So, here’s how attitude exposes false teachers:

所以，以下是假教師的態度如何被揭露：

what is their attitude towards sin?

他們對罪的態度是什麼？

Do they treat it with contempt?

他們蔑視它嗎？

Will they speak about the holiness of God and the reality of evil,

他們會談論神的聖潔和邪惡的現實，

or will they avoid these in their teaching?

還是他們會在教導中避免這些？

Now let's look at verses 13-16.

現在讓我們看 13-16 節。

Peter focuses on the false teachers' behaviour.

彼得專注於假教師的行為。

These false teachers "carouse in broad daylight."

這些假教師「喜愛白晝狂歡」。

They "revel in their pleasures."

他們「以自己的詭詐為樂」。

Their eyes are "full of adultery."

他們的眼睛「滿是淫色」。

They "seduce the unstable" – the prey upon easy victims.

他們「引誘心不堅定的人」—狩獵容易被吞吃的。

They are "experts in greed."

他們是「心中習慣了貪婪」。

They love "the wages of wickedness."

他們「貪愛不義的工錢」。

These verses basically explain just one idea:

這些經文基本上只解釋了一個想法：

the pursuit of sensual pleasure.

追求感官情慾。

In fact, the word "pleasure" in the language of the New Testament is the word we today call "hedonism".

事實上，新約語言中的「情慾」這個詞就是我們今天所說的「享樂主義」這個詞。

Hedonism is the belief that pleasure and happiness are the chief purpose of life.

享樂主義認為快樂和幸福是生活的主要目的。

It is the indulgence of carnal appetite or the gratification of animal instinct.

它是放縱或動物本能的滿足。

At its root, it is totally selfish and utterly shameless.

從根本上說，它是完全自私的，完全不知羞恥的。

It reminds me of the president of a very well-known Christian university in the United States who was forced to resign a couple of years ago.

這讓我想起了幾年前美國一所非常著名的基督教大學的校長，他被迫辭職。

It's said he let his wife sleep with a younger man.

據說他讓他的妻子和一個年輕的男人同房。

He was caught on camera with his pant zipper down, his arm around a younger woman, at a private party on a yacht.

他在遊艇上的一個私人聚會上被鏡頭拍到，褲子拉鍊放下，摟著一個年輕女人。

And here's his excuse: he said it was "all in good fun."

這是他的藉口：他說這「一切都很好玩」。

That's shameless.

那就是不知羞恥。

Not only are these teachers shameless, they also don't care how they pollute worship.

這些教師不僅無恥，而且不在乎他們如何污染敬拜。

Verse 13 refers to a feast.

第 13 節提到一個宴會。

This was the meal the congregation shared before the celebration of the Lord's Supper, known as the "love feast".

這是會眾在慶祝主餐之前分享的飯食，被稱為「愛宴」。

It was a time of fellowship, eating, sharing, teaching, and worship

這是一個團契、吃飯、分享、教導和敬拜的時間

– much like our New Beginnings end-of-month celebrations.

– 很像我們的新開始團契月末慶祝活動。

You can read about the love feast in 1 Corinthians 11 and Jude 12.

你可以在哥林多前書 11 和猶大書 12 中讀到關於愛宴的資訊。

The false teachers went with one intention: who can we have sex with?

假教師們的意圖只有一個：我們可以和誰發生性關係？

Their eyes are full of adultery, says Peter.

彼得說他們滿眼淫色。

They were sexual predators.

他們是性掠奪者。

And Peter will expose them.

彼得會揭露他們。

He's the ancient equivalent of today's #MeToo movement

他是古代相當於今天的#MeToo 運動

– a movement against sexual harassment of women;

- 反對對婦女性騷擾的運動;

a movement that has exposed the sin of sexual harassment of women by male church leaders and the cover-up of sexual predators in the church by some denominations.

這場運動揭露了男性教會領袖性騷擾婦女的罪惡，以及一些教派掩蓋教會中性掠奪者的罪惡。

Ultimately, Peter says, the false teachers are like Balaam.

最終，彼得說，假教師就像巴蘭一樣。

In the Book of Numbers in our Old Testament, Balaam was hired by the King of Moab to curse the Israelites.

在我們舊約的民數記中，巴蘭被摩押王雇用來咒詛以色列人。

He was willing to take a bribe to curse God's people.

他願意收受賄賂來詛咒神的子民。

Even though he failed, the point is his motive was not God's glory, but his own gain.

儘管他失敗了，但關鍵是他的動機不是神的榮耀，而是他自己的利益。

Ironically, it was an unreasoning animal, a creature of instinct – a donkey – who proved to have more spiritual insight than Balaam.

具有諷刺意味的是，它是一種不講道理的動物，一種本能的生物——一頭驢——事實證明，牠比巴蘭更有屬靈洞察力。

Such was the depth of Balaam's spiritual blindness.

這就是巴蘭屬靈瞎眼的深度。

So it is with the behaviour of the false teachers:

假教師的行為也是如此：

they do not teach what is right because they are not interested in leading you into truth;

他們不教導正確的，因為他們對引導你進入真理不感興趣；

they are interested in satisfying their own lusts, egos, and desires.

他們有興趣滿足自己的情慾、自我和慾望。

In Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus warns us of false prophets, and he tells us how to spot them.

在馬太福音 7：15-20 中，耶穌警告我們假先知，他告訴我們如何發現他們。

He says, in verses 16 and 20, "by their fruit you will recognize them."

他在 16 和 20 節說，「憑著他們的果子，就可以認出他們來。」

False teaching and false teachers may not be immediately obvious.

虛假的教導和假教師可能不會立即顯現出來。

But at some point, the truth of who they are will surface.

但在某些時候，他們是誰的真相會浮現。

Peter tells us to watch for attitude and behaviour.

彼得告訴我們要注意態度和行為。

He warns us to be on the alert when there is a disregard for authority, a lack of respect for God, and a denial of personal sin.

他警告我們，當無視權威、不尊重神和否認個人的罪時，要保持警惕。

And he has told us to be aware of selfish behaviour, especially the pursuit of pleasure and the shameless desire for sexual fulfilment.

他告訴我們要注意自私的行為，特別是追求歡樂和對性滿足的無恥慾望。

It's a sobering warning.

這是一個發人深省的警告。

And I know it's not easy listening.

我知道這道理不好聽。

Let me finish with a story of someone who left behind her own false teaching to follow Jesus.
讓我以一個故事結束，一個拋棄了自己的錯誤教導來跟隨耶穌的人。

In 2014, author and speaker Doreen Virtue was the world's top-selling New Age author.

2014 年，作家兼演說家 Doreen Virtue 是世界上最暢銷的新紀元作家。

She had become astonishingly wealthy, living on a 50-acre ranch in Hawaii.

她變得非常富有，住在夏威夷一個 50 英畝的牧場上。

Her publisher treated her like a rock star, flying her and her husband first-class to give New Age workshops across the globe.

她的出版商像對待搖滾明星一樣對待她，讓她和她的丈夫乘坐頭等艙，在世界各地舉辦新紀元研討會。

Celebrities sought her presence.

名人尋求她的出現。

Doreen described her life like this:

多琳這樣描述自己的生活：

"I promoted 'positive affirmation', believing and teaching that our words create our reality. Yet despite success, my life was marred by divorces and addictions. My ego was swollen. I believed my every thought was a message or a sign from God or his angels."

「我提倡'積極的肯定'，相信並教導我們的話語創造了我們的現實。然而，儘管取得了成功，我的生活卻被離婚和成癮所破壞。我的自尊心膨脹了。我相信我的每一個想法都是來自神或他的天使的信息或跡象。」

In January 2015, she happened to listen to a sermon by a pastor.

2015 年 1 月，她碰巧聽了一位牧師的講道。

The sermon was from 2 Timothy 4.

講道來自提摩太后書 4 章。

In verses 3-4, the Apostle Paul writes:

在 3-4 節，使徒保羅寫道：

"For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."

「因為時候將到，那時人會厭煩健全的教導，耳朵發癢，就隨心所欲地增添好些教師，並且掩耳不聽真理，偏向無稽的傳說。」

As she listened, Doreen felt ashamed of her false teachings.

多琳聽著，為自己的錯誤教義感到羞愧。

She was broken, deeply ashamed, and humbled.

她心碎了，深感羞愧，慚愧難當。

She dropped to her knees, and cried out, "I'm so sorry, God!"

她跪倒在地，大聲喊道：「神啊，對不起！」

On that day, she gave her life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

那天，她把自己的生命獻給了耶穌基督，接受耶穌為她的主和救主。

She and her husband left their Hawaiian mansion;

她和她的丈夫離開了他們的夏威夷豪宅；

she told everyone of her faith in Jesus.

她告訴每個人她對耶穌的信仰。

Instantly, her publisher terminated the contract and New Age believers treated her like dirt.

她的出版商立即終止了合同，新紀元的信徒像對待爛渣一樣地對待她。

She says, “After seeking but never finding peace in New Age, I have finally found it in Christ.”

她說：「從未在新紀元找到平安之後，我終於在基督里找到了平安。」

We must be alert for false teaching – Peter tells us to.

我們必須警惕錯誤的教導——彼得告訴我們。

But we’re not to be consumed by the search for false teaching.

但我們不要被尋找虛假教導所吞噬。

We challenge it when we see it.

當我們看到它時，我們會挑戰它。

But above all, we fix our eyes on Jesus.

但最重要的是，我們注視耶穌。

Like Doreen Virtue, let’s fall to our knees, give our lives to Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and declare that only in Jesus is there peace. Amen.

像多琳·美德一樣，讓我們跪下，把我們的生命獻給耶穌叫祂作主和救主，並宣佈只有在耶穌裡才有平安。阿們。