

## What Man Missed In Jesus' Message - Beware of False Prophets

This **Weekly Thought** is part of our continuing series covering what man may have missed in **The Holy Bible**. These weekly articles are meant to raise thought provoking questions about what man may have missed, misinterpreted or misunderstood about **The Message of Jesus, The Christ**. For over fifty years I have researched and studied history and I am sharing the results with you.

Let us now consider some of the reasons people give for not following Jesus, for not believing that they are Born Catholic. These fall into two groups. In one group are those religions, such as Islam and Judaism, which at worst believe Jesus himself was a "false" prophet, and at best believe that while He may have been a prophet, He was not the Son of God. The second group is comprised of all those who consider themselves to be Christians, but not Catholics due to differences in beliefs and objections against the Catholic Church's doctrines, teachings and traditions. Scripture warns us against false prophets and false teachers. (Matthew 7:15-16). *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them."*

Looking first at the argument of Jesus being a "false prophet", let us examine the "fruits" of the Christians and Catholics. According to generally available data, the number of Christians, i.e. those claiming to believe in Jesus Christ and his teachings, in the world today is over 2 billion. They represent a third of the world's population and are the largest single religious group of mankind. And Roman Catholics comprise the largest single group of Christians. The Roman Catholic Church is the largest religious group in the United States with over 77 million members belonging to its 20,000 churches across the country.

Catholic Schools educate over 2 million students every year at their own expense with a savings to the taxpayers of over 18 billion dollars annually and with a higher graduation and college acceptance rate than most public school systems have. Over 200 Catholic Colleges and Universities have an enrollment of more than 700,000 students. Some 600 hospitals in the Catholic non-profit hospital system treat one in five hospital patients in the United States, not just Catholics, they come from all faiths and walks of life. And the Catholic Church feeds, clothes and houses millions of people, one in five indigents in America is cared for by the Church, without regard to their race, religion or beliefs.

Does that sound like the fruits of a false prophet? I challenge anyone to produce facts and figures that show where any other religion, or religious group, has done as much for its members, *and for mankind in general, including peoples of all races, creeds and colors, who were not its members*, as the Catholics have done over the last two millennia. If God had not intended it, could the Catholic Church have born so much "fruit"? If Jesus were a "false" prophet, surely God would have intervened and the Catholic Church would not still exist.

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