

FAKE DUCKS, FAKE FAMILIES, FAKE GOSPELS AND FAKE CHURCHES

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The world quotes a portion of the scripture Matthew 21:16, “[Out of the mouth of babes ...](#)” but they transpose its meaning to Matthew 11:25 where Jesus said, “[I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes.](#)”

The Lord has used something one of our own family “babes,” three year old John, spoke recently to reveal some things to me this past week and I feel led to write about it. I believe it will bless you.

A few weeks ago we were with a friend in Bozeman and she suggested taking the kids to feed the ducks even though it was cold and snowy. The children really enjoyed this, especially John. Then last week we were in Monument, Colorado, at *another* very large pond where there were wild ducks and geese so the kids got some bread and had a blast feeding them. That night before bed John was carrying his small stuffed animal duck around so I asked him: “John, are you going to feed that duck tonight?” He replied, “No.” I said, “Why not?” John responded, “Because he’s a fake duck!” Ev and I cracked up! I’d never heard him use the word “fake” yet he knew what it meant. So then I said to him, “If you’re not going to feed him maybe we should let him walk over to the duck pond so he can eat.” John said, “He can’t walk over there.” I replied, “Why not?” He responded, “Because he doesn’t have any real legs to walk on.”

The Lord has been speaking to me about this and how it applies to *the* Church and the “fake” church. The world has a saying, “If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, talks like a duck; it’s probably a duck.” But what about churches? What about families? If the church you attend is a real church and not a *fake* church then the people there will be your real family, not a fake family. What is a fake family? A fake family is one that doesn’t really love you—doesn’t care about you—one that only shows superficial “fake” love and not the agape love that Jesus demonstrates to His family and through His real family.

Many people in the world and the Body of Christ have been hurt by family members from their physical family—a father or mother who abandoned you; children who never call or visit you; relatives who don’t visit you at the nursing home. But there is a real family—the genuine family of God who does love you and will take the time to let Jesus love you through them. Fake family members are self-centered and not interested in you unless you can do something for them. The early Church and real churches today are known by their love but

sadly they are on the decline having been largely replaced by false churches and fake churches.

Recently I was ministering to a man from Canada for a few days and he disclosed that the church he liked to attend was actually discouraging him from attending! Many of the people, including the pastor, actually told him that he was not welcome at that church. That is a fake church and no doubt they are preaching a fake gospel.

Many other Christians we've known over the years, like Jesus, have been "wounded in the house of their friends." They've been hurt, rejected, beaten down and ignored by those who claim to be serving Jesus. This can never be the case. Jesus does not hurt people; Jesus does not reject people; Jesus does not beat people down. No, the devil does that and, unfortunately, he often uses those who claim to be church members and family members but they are fakes. Jesus said, **"By their fruit you will know them."**

As I travel I often attend other churches if I am not ministering. Seldom do they demonstrate even cordial behavior or warmth toward me, a stranger, let alone love. And yet many of these churches wonder why they are not growing not realizing that they are not emitting the sweet fragrance of Jesus Christ to a sin-sick, crying, dying world or even to fellow Christians who attend their services.

The New Testament is clear that this abundance of *fake* churches is a sign of the Last Days. Jesus Himself said, **"And because iniquity shall abound the love of many will wax cold." (Mt. 24:12)**

Dear Christian friends, if our love has grown cold then no wonder the world doesn't want anything to do with Christianity; perhaps like the fake duck John recognized, they see that we are nothing more than fake Christians because in the early Church love was the defining characteristic of true Christians.

I pray that this teaching will cause you to pray about your love walk, especially with other Christians, and that you will repent if the Holy Spirit convicts you in this area and that you will encourage other members of the Body of Christ to demonstrate that they are genuine and not fake Christians. Show the love of Jesus to people this week!

I am back in Helena, Montana, this week where the Holy Spirit first said to me back in 1997: “The world is waiting for a true demonstration of the gospel.”

People have heard the gospel preached many times, especially here in the Western countries but they’re not convinced that it’s real—they think it’s a fake because, like John, they’ve seen too many fake ducks and they want to see a real one. Let them see a demonstration of the gospel and the love of Jesus in your life this week. PTL!