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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Confirm Your Calling: The Danger of False Teachers (2 Peter 2:10b-22)

TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching continues Peter's condemnation of false teachers who reject the Messiah's authority and promote immoral living. Peter describes their arrogance, greed, sensuality, and coming destruction.

The false teachers blaspheme the glorious ones and challenge God's revelation about the Messiah's return and final judgment. The teaching considers whether the glorious ones refer to God and the Messiah or to angels, while emphasizing that the overall rebuke remains the same.

Peter compares the false teachers to irrational animals and says they will receive the consequences of their wrongdoing. Their eyes are full of adultery, their hearts are trained in greed, and they target unstable believers.

Peter compares them with Balaam, who loved gain from wrongdoing. Balaam's donkey and the angel of YHWH illustrate that the false teachers are following a destructive way that leads toward death.

The false teachers are called waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. They promise freedom while being slaves of corruption, enticing vulnerable people with sensual passions and leading them back into sin.

The teaching concludes that returning to corruption after escaping through knowledge of Yeshua is worse than never knowing the way of righteousness. Peter uses the images of a dog returning to its vomit and a washed sow returning to the mire as warnings against turning back.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The false teachers are bold and willful.
- They blaspheme the glorious ones.

- Angels do not pronounce judgment presumptuously.
- The false teachers behave like irrational animals.
- They are greedy and have eyes full of adultery.
- They follow the way of Balaam.
- They are compared to waterless springs.
- They promise freedom while enslaved to corruption.
- They target unstable and vulnerable believers.
- Returning to corruption is worse after knowing righteousness.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The false teachers are described as bold and _____.
2. Peter compares them to irrational _____.
3. The false teachers have hearts trained in _____.
4. They follow the way of _____.
5. They promise _____ but are slaves of corruption.
6. The teaching says returning to sin is worse after knowing the way of _____.

Challenging

1. The false teachers are called waterless _____.
2. They are also compared to mists driven by a _____.
3. Balaam loved gain from _____.
4. The false teachers entice people with sensual passions of the _____.
5. Those who return to corruption become enslaved to whatever _____ them.
6. The closing image compares the washed sow returning to the _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the false teachers' blasphemy reveal about their attitude toward God's revelation?

2. Why does Peter compare these teachers to irrational animals?
3. How does the story of Balaam illuminate the false teachers' greed and destructive path?
4. What does the image of waterless springs communicate about their teaching?
5. How can a promise of freedom actually lead people into slavery?
6. Why does Peter describe returning to corruption as worse after knowing righteousness?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. willful
2. animals
3. greed
4. Balaam
5. freedom
6. righteousness

Challenging

1. springs
2. storm
3. wrongdoing
4. flesh
5. overcomes
6. mire