

GUIDED OR MANIPULATED?



***I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go.
I will guide you with my eye.***

Psalm 32

Who of us is not in need of guidance from God?

Do I speak or hold my peace?

Do I stick my neck out or do I wait?

Which cry for help do I answer?

Spiritual advisors and Christian leaders are often helpful in figuring out what to do.

But sometimes their counsel is manipulative.

Sometimes the Christian Agenda is driven by doubtful interests.

“Lord, are you guiding me in this, or am I being manipulated?”



Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the people to ask for Barab'bas and destroy Jesus.

The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barab'bas."

Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified."

Matthew 27

“But Lord, he’s a Christian leader. I trusted his guidance.”

Not good enough.

Adam blamed Eve for making him eat the fruit.

Did this get Adam off the hook?

If I follow a “prophet” who turns out to be a wolf, am I exonerated?

Truth is, I know---and so do you---when the “guidance” is tainted.

When we allow ourselves to be manipulated by a doubtful Christian advisor, we are not ignorant, we are complicit.

We secretly prefer the advice we are given, even though our heart is uneasy and our conscience is aghast.

The counsel of every spiritual advisor and every Christian leader must be examined in the light that comes from the Lord Jesus.

Does it match his Spirit?

Is it driven by his care for all the forgotten ones, not just those in our own caste?

Does it stand up to the light of his truth?

"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8

The light of the Lord Jesus is the only light there is.

If we walk in his light, we will never be manipulated.



Message: Richard E. Bieber April 2021

Featured Art: Eric Holmlund at ericholmlund.com

Prayer: Wise Lord, how we so need your guidance, how we need to see things with your eye. Attune our hearts so closely to you that we can tell darkness from light. Help us to recognize and reject manipulation even when it's coming from a Christian leader. Bring us to repentance for complicitly allowing ourselves to be swayed by any teaching, any opinion that does not stand up to the light of your truth. And yes Lord we ask you to continue to instruct us, to teach us the way to go and to guide us with your eye. Amen. Maranatha Mirror

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