

Jeremiah 23 • Carrying the Wrong Burden

1. (v.1-4) The cure for a **bad** pastor or leader is not to go out on one's own, but to seek out a **good** pastor or leader instead.
2. (v.5-8) The core problem of both false shepherds and the misled or scattered flock is living according to their own **way** instead of God's **Word**.
3. (v.9-12) The core problem of false prophets is they are both under the influence of a **false spirit** ("*like a drunken man*") and "**polluted**"—devoted from the heart to **sin**.
4. (v.13-15) There is a direct connection between **physical** unfaithfulness and **spiritual** unfaithfulness; no spiritual revival will be successful without being accompanied by a **moral** return and repentance.
5. (v.16-22) One of the sure signs of a false prophet or leader is that everything is built around their cult of **personality** and a message to **trust** in this life to the **exclusion** of the next.
6. (v.23-24) One of the differences between false and true leaders is that true leaders live and act and teach as if every second of life is being personally **observed** by **God** because it is; false ones are deceived into thinking He either doesn't **see** or doesn't actually **care**.
7. (v.25-32) We are supposed to be able to tell the difference between the false and the true based on the **Word of God** and their lack of effectiveness to produce sincere **repentance**.
8. (v.33-40) The ultimate deception perpetrated by false teachers and false prophets is replacing the "**burden**" of a Christ-committed life with something that appears **easier** in this life, but in reality is not, eventually leading to **death**. The issue of knowing God's Word well enough to discern and choose between true and false leaders is, in reality, a **life** and **death** issue.