

CORRECTING THINGS IN 2019 PART 2

THE SIMON SYNDROME

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Acts 8:9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

Acts 8:10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

Acts 8:11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Acts 8:15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

Acts 8:16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Acts 8:17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Acts 8:19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Acts 8:21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Acts 8:23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

Acts 8:24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

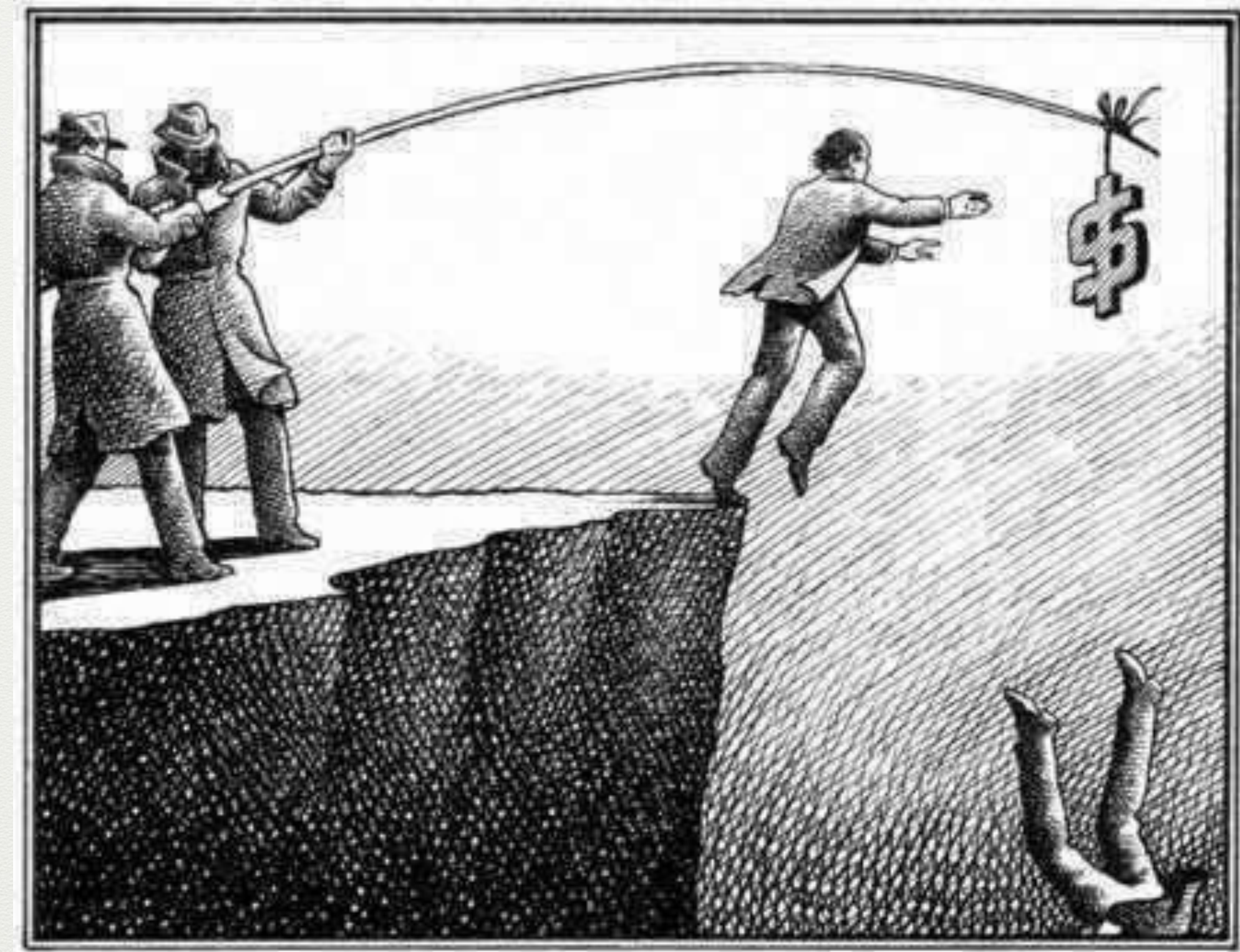
- Worldly accomplishments and success does not make us impervious to God's correction. Just because we are viewed by others as special, does not give us a pass from God. *Rom. 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.*
- Unfortunately, many seek prominence as a measure to forward themselves so they can reach more people. But which actually draws people, the gospel or the promotion of it? *John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
- Several believers are making fans of people instead of converts for Christ! People that are fans of fame have the interest of those that they follow and not the interest of Christ. *2Tim. 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*



- Simon was a legend and very popular in his day. He was viewed as a mystical, powerful being that was lifted up by God Himself. *2Pet. 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*
- When the preaching of the gospel arrived, Simon lost a great deal of his followers. Because of this, he sought an opportunity to have the Holy Ghost and keep his following intact. *Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*
- Peter not only told him he wasn't truly saved, but he also exposed the reason behind his desire for fame. Peter said he was bitter and in bondage to sin. His actions told of his internal struggle. *Heb. 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*



- God does not share His platform with men that desire to use it for vainglory or as an opportunity to show themselves. He does not lift up those that desire to be elevated! *Luke 14:11 For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*
- When a man has the desire to be famous, rich, or prominent, he cannot deny himself. Simon could not deny himself to even pray, but he had to ask Peter to pray instead. *Matt. 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*
- There are far too many men leading the church with the desire for prestigious recognition. This causes the body of Christ to strive and focus on their own well being instead of the well being of others. This behavior is not Christ's plan for His church body. *1Tim. 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.*



A close-up photograph of a typewriter carriage. A white sheet of paper is positioned in the carriage, with the word "Summary" typed in a black, serif font. Above the paper, a metal ruler is visible, showing markings for 4/0 and 5/0. The typewriter's metal components, including the carriage and typebars, are visible in the foreground and background.

Summary

Today, countless people are targeting the church pulpit to be lifted up before men and viewed as celebrities. They mingle with celebrities and society's prominent figures in order to validate their prestige. Men like this cannot preach the full truth of the Word because they are using the Word to draw people to themselves. They care more about their level than the people's lifestyles. The standard of God is exchanged for tolerance so they can build bigger buildings, buy homes and cars, and be looked upon as something great in the eyes of man. This is the Simon Syndrome! They believe, but not to the saving of their own soul. If you are not about saving your own soul then you will not be concerned about saving others. How can a man avoid certain passages of scripture and various teachings of the Bible while helping the people under his watch? When you desire prominence, you will manipulate the Word, misinterpret text, and ignore certain passages that contradict your decisions because you desire to keep your kingdom growing.

This is what Simon did. He hid his true intentions in order to capitalize on what the apostles were doing at the time. When the apostles started trending up, he wanted a hashtag! He believed just enough to get access to their platform and use it for himself. Peter rebuked him sharply and dealt with his bitterness and sin. Wherever men are seeking fame and fortune, there is always a deficit. This is why God forbids men like this to pastor and lead his people. They cannot seek riches and fame and lead God's people because they will fall and usually hurt many in the process. This year, Christ will be judging this issue more openly by publicly dealing with men that are taking advantage of God's flock. It's time to judge ourselves and make sure we believe and that this belief heals our bitterness and iniquities so that we will not have to be judged by consequences!

Titus 1:10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

Titus 1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.