

Series: A New Heart: The Book of Ezekiel
Message: Spiritual Identity Thieves | Ezekiel 13
Preparation: Read Ezekiel 14-18



Sermon Big Idea	Helpful Resources
False comfort isn't kindness — it's betrayal.	The Bible Project Guide: Ezekiel 

Head: Grasping the Text

Goal: To grasp the theological concepts and historical context of the text.

1. **The setup.** Read Ezekiel 12:22 and 12:27–28. What were people saying about Ezekiel's prophecies? How did that skepticism open the door for the false prophets of chapter 13? What do you think are reasons for why Christians today get attracted to false teachers?
2. **The source.** According to 13:2–7, what was the difference between Ezekiel and the false prophets? Outwardly they used the same title and the same words ("This is the LORD's declaration"). Where did their message really come from? What do you think drives and motivates false teachers today?
3. **The whitewashed wall.** Read 13:10–16. What does the image of a flimsy wall covered in whitewash say about the false prophets' message of "Peace"? What happens when the storm comes, and what is exposed?
4. **Jesus on false prophets.** Read Matthew 7:15–27. Jesus says false prophets come "in sheep's clothing" and are known "by their fruit" (vv. 15–20). Some will even say, "Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name?" (v. 22). How does this echo Ezekiel 13's warning about people using God's name without being sent by Him? Then compare the two houses in the storm (vv. 24–27) with the whitewashed wall in Ezekiel 13:11–14. According to Jesus, what makes a life stand?

Heart: Internal Transformation

Goal: Examine how the text reshapes our identity, affections, and motivations to bring about honest self-examination.

5. **The voices we want.** In 13:10 the people helped build the wall, and the prophets painted it. Paul warns that people will gather teachers who say what they want to hear, read 2 Timothy 4:3. What comforting messages are you most tempted to believe, even when you suspect they aren't true?
6. **Our own whitewash.** The false prophets painted over cracks instead of repairing them. Where in your life (a relationship, a habit, your spiritual life, etc.) are you covering cracks so things look fine from the outside? What keeps you from bringing them to God?
7. **The True Prophet.** Read John 7:16–18 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. The false prophets spoke from their own hearts for their own glory. How is Jesus different? How does knowing that He tells us the hard truth about our sin, and then took the storm of judgment for us, change how you face your own cracks?

Hands: Living it Out

Goal: To move from hearing the Word to living it out as a disciple with specific, practical, and achievable steps for the coming week.

8. **Test the voices.** Read 1 John 4:1 and Acts 17:11. List the voices that shape your view of God and yourself: podcasts, influencers, friends, social media, even "follow your heart." What is one practical way you can test what you hear against Scripture this month? Additionally, how can your small group regularly incorporate the practice of discernment?
9. **Speak truth in love.** True prophets "went up to the gaps" (v. 5) by telling hard truths that protect people. Is there someone in your life you need to encourage with truth instead of easy comfort? Is there someone you notice that is being more swayed by false and/or questionable voices? How can you do that with both honesty and love?
10. **Strengthen the discouraged.** 13:22 says false comfort "disheartened the righteous." Who around you is trying to follow God and feels worn down or alone? What is one specific thing you can do this week to encourage them?