

DON'T BE FOOLED

Matthew 7:15-23

11/19/23

Prophet - A prophet is one that accurately communicates the Words of God.

False teachers are:

1. Devious

Matthew 7:15a – “Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing...”

2. Destructive

Matthew 7:15b – “...but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

3. Discernable

Matthew 7:16 – “You **WILL recognize** them by their fruits.”

4. Doomed

Matthew 7:19 – “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

5. Deadly...following false teachers leads to:

~ Ungodliness and decay

2 Timothy 2:16,17 – “...it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene.”

~ Verbal profession without a heart of repentance, submission, and obedience

Matthew 7:22 – “On that day many will **SAY** to Me, ‘**Lord, Lord** did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’”

Matthew 7:21 – “Not everyone who **says** to me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.”

~ Eternal consequences

Matthew 7:23 – “And then I (Jesus) will declare to them, I NEVER knew you, depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.”

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most in the message this week?
2. Why are false teachers so dangerous?
3. Why do you think so many people follow false teachers today?
4. What false teachings are popular today that the church needs to be aware of?
5. Do you think the “fruit” test is a valid one? If so, how would you explain that to a new Christian?
6. If both the false teacher and good teacher use scripture to validate their claims, then how will we identify the bad fruit?
7. Is it possible for someone to teach something incorrect but not be a false teacher? Why or why not?
8. What surprises you about those who do great things in Jesus’ name but who are ultimately rejected by Jesus?
9. What does Jesus say is missing from the lives of those who are rejected by Jesus?
10. According to Jesus, not everyone who says that they know Him are known by Him. How can you be certain that Jesus knows you?