

Beware: False Prophets and False Professors

Matthew 7:15-23

- I. A Disciple's Characteristics: 8 Blessings (5:1-12)
 - II. A Disciple's Influence: 2 Metaphors (5:13-16)
 - III. A Disciple's Righteousness: Six Contrasting Illustrations (5:17-48)
 - IV. A Disciple's Piety: Three Religious Practices (6:1-18): Giving, Praying, Fasting
 - V. A Disciple's Commitments: Four Contrasting Choices (6:19-34)
 - VI. A Disciple's Relationships (7:1-12)
 - VII. The Challenge to Commitment (7:13-27)
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A. Two Paths (7:13-14)

B. Two Trees (7:15-20)

1. Jesus' Assumptions

a. There _____ false prophets (Matthew 24:11-14)

- NT writers were almost _____ with this threat: 2 Peter 2:1-3; 17-19; 1 John 2:18, 22-23; 4:1; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
- Their value to the church – forced clarification of apostolic truth = _____

b. There is _____ truth

2. Jesus' warnings

a. False prophets are _____ (they are "_____")

- Paul used the same figure in Acts 20:28-31.
- OT pseudo-prophets were characterized by "_____"

b. False prophets are _____ (they are disguised by "_____".)

-- Cannot tell by what they wear (some wear clerical collars)

-- By their works (7:21-23)

-- By their vocabulary (7:22)

-- By their sincerity

3. Jesus' tests of authenticity: "You will recognize them by their _____"

a. What to look for:

1) Is it _____?

2) Is it _____?

b. How to look:

- 1) The _____ test: His _____
- 2) The _____ test: His _____ (2 Corinthians 2:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:4-5, 10-12)
- 3) The _____ test: His _____ (2 Timothy 2:16-18, 2 Corinthians 3:2)

C. Two Claims (21-23)

1. False Profession: “Lord, Lord”

a. False disciples are mere “_____.” They are relying on a “creedal affirmation” for their admittance to the kingdom of heaven.

- 1) A verbal affirmation is _____ (Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 12:3).
- 2) The affirmation rejected by Jesus is _____, not genuine. (Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)

- Polite
- Orthodox
- Fervent
- Public
- Spectacular

b. False disciples are mere _____ – they engage in “ministry” without doing the Father’s will.

2. True Profession: “I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you.’”

D. Two Houses (24-27)

Two Warnings for Followers of Jesus:

1. Do not be _____ by false prophets

2. Do not be _____ - _____ as a false professor.

a. Doing ministry as a means to _____.

b. Substitute _____ for kingdom righteousness.