

Sermon on the Mount Series  
"Beware of False Prophets"  
Dr. Janet Cook, Senior Pastor  
Sunday, November 5, 2017

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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NKJV Bible.

**You Will Know Them by Their Fruits.**

Matthew 7:15-20 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."

- Jesus exposed a type of deadly spiritual predator.
- They appear to be spiritual but their motive turns out to be greed.

Matthew 7:16-18 "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit."

- "Fruit" is a Jewish metaphor for both character and conduct.
- No matter what a person claims to be, his/her true character will eventually reveal itself. A person knows a tree by its fruit.
- Jesus warned that teachers and prophets are like trees: examine conduct and their fruit carefully.

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

- Anyone who claims the name of Jesus but does not bear fruit will be like worthless trees, cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 7:20 "Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

- Jesus explained that his followers should evaluate teachers' words by examining their lives.
- Just as trees are consistent in the kind of fruit they produce, godly teachers consistently exhibit good behavior and high moral character as they attempt to live out the truths of Scripture.

Matthew 7:21-24 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say

to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

- Calling him Lord is not enough. The fruit in a person's life reveals who s/he really is.
- To enter the Kingdom of Heaven a person must do the will of his/her Heavenly Father.
- Many people think that if they are good people and say religious things, God will have to reward them with eternal life.
- The thing that will matter on judgment day is a person's relationship with Jesus Christ, his/her acceptance of him as Savior and his/her obedience to him.

Link to 4 Shocking Ways Evil Spirits Deceive – And How to Avoid Them:

<https://www.charismamag.com/blogs/a-voice-calling-out/34442-4-shocking-ways-evil-spirits-deceive-mdash-and-how-to-avoid-them>