

## False Prophets

Matthew 7.15-20

### Overview

- **False Teaching Bears the Fruit of Death**
  - False Prophets = False Teachers & Livers of Gods word
    - Measuring line seems to be the Word of God:
      - Note: 5.17 & 7.12 as well as the many other places Christ quotes the Scriptures (John 5.39, Luke 24.44, etc.)
    - Whatever is “Good fruit” or “Bad fruit” is only good or bad because the Bible calls it good or bad
    - Also, those false teachers do not live in accord with good doctrine (life)
    - False teachers are all those whose doctrine and life either adds to or takes away from the Gospel
- **How will they appear? In sheep’s clothing: They will look like Christians**
  - They will take the name of Christ (self described “Christians”)
    - These people may not know they are ‘false’ as they could be self deceived (cf. Matthew 7.21-23)
- **What is their intention? Destroy/rob the faith/life of the church**
- **How will you know them? By their fruit (Doctrine and Life)**
  - “Bad fruit”
    - They want to try and make things easier for you to enter the gate that leads to death (v 13)
    - Their doctrines and their lives accord with the things that lead to death, not life
  - “Good fruit”
    - Galatians 5.22-24
    - All these things are moored in the Gospel
  - Gospel people have Gospel fruit

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** *What is the danger of false truths getting in on the inside of anything?*

1. Read Matthew 7.15-20. What is a false prophet? How can you determine whether or not someone is ‘false’ or ‘true’?
2. How does Jesus’ command to “Beware” of false prophets fit with his earlier command to “judge not” in verses 1-6?
3. How do “False Prophets” appear? Try and describe what this might look in our modern context.
4. What is their intention? Read verses 21-23 and discuss how these people may not even know they are false prophets.
5. What does it look like to be ‘ravenous’ (rob) sheep? What are some things we can be aware of in practicality?
6. What is the fruit of bad trees? (Galatians 5.16-21) What might this life look like?
7. How does true preaching lead to good fruit (i.e. fruit of the Spirit)? What might this life look like?

8. In what ways does Christ model this as the True Prophet?
9. What are some things that the church has that are able to flesh false teachers out?
10. What are some false teachings you're tempted to live out?

**Accountability Question:** *Pray for and share stories of victory over areas you are tempted to live out the fruit of death or the fruit of life.*

*Take time to pray for others in the lives in the group who are living out false doctrines.*