

The Sermon on the Mount Beware of False Prophets; Matthew 7:15-23

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

Beware of false prophets

II Peter 2:1-3 ...there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Galatians 2:4-5 But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage. But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

II Corinthians 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

Philippians 3:2-3 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh

I Timothy 6:20-21 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”—which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith.

Acts 20:28-30 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Acts 20:31-33 Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes.

I John 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God...

Why does God allow false prophets? Several possible answers, but their existence is evidence for the credibility of Jesus. He warned us. The apostles warned us. They openly declared that false prophets would be a common threat to the church.

Puzzle: 1500 pieces, Poland Puzzle Company, every piece is essentially the same shape, so much so that I've put several pieces together only to discover later that the piece went somewhere else.

Color matching is really the only way of putting it together. Discovered this weekend, after being away for 2 weeks, that I have to look at the picture on the box over and over to help decipher where pieces should go.

I can't just go on gut feeling or it looks similar to these pieces. I have to go back to the original. Same with our walk with Christ. We go back to the original and compare all things to His life, His teachings, and the life and teachings of His apostles.

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

Matthew 7:16 "You will know them by their fruits."

Matthew 7:16-19 "Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Matthew 7:20 "So then, you will know them by their fruits."

Attributes that are not bearing of good fruit

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"

Attributes that are not bearing of good fruit: Call Jesus "Lord", Preach in His name, battle the devil and demons, perform miracles in His name

What attributes would be consistent then with bearing good fruit?

Matthew 7:24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them...