



June 23, 2019
Pastor Bruce Adrian

Sermon on the Mount

Lesson Twenty • Matthew 7:15-20

Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

Beware of False Teachers

True followers of Jesus Christ must GUARD against false teachers by discerning their fruits.

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits..." Matthew 7:15-16

Warning Is Based on Two Realities

False teachers EXIST and truth MATTERS.

*"And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray." Matthew 24:11
Mark 13:22-23, Acts 20:29-31, 2Timothy 4:3-4, 2Peter 2:1*

The Truth about False Teachers

1. False Teachers Are Deceptively DANGEROUS!

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

Guarding Against False Teachers

- False teachers are OUTWARDLY deceptive: "who come to you in sheep's clothing"

*Matthew 7:21-23
2Corinthians 11:13-15*

- False teachers are INWARDLY dangerous: "but inwardly are ravenous wolves"

Acts 20:29-31

2. False Teachers Can Be DETECTED by Their Fruit!

"You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit." Matthew 7:16-18

Recognizing False Teachers

- False teachers can be recognized by the fruit of their TEACHING (creed or doctrine).

Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11

Isaiah 30:10

Matthew 7:13-14

Acts 20:30

Galatians 1:6-7

1Timothy 6:3

- False teachers can be recognized by the fruit of their LIVES (character and conduct).

Titus 1:16

2Peter 2:1-3

3. False Teachers Will Be DESTROYED in the Fire of Judgment!

"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits." Matthew 7:19-20

Examine the Evidence

Let us examine OUR LIVES to discern if we are a true believer in Jesus Christ or a false believer, if we are a healthy tree bearing good fruit or a diseased tree bearing bad fruit.