

Dangers Christians Face: False Teachers

The Sermon on the Mount **Matthew 7:15-20** Chris Mueller 3-24-2024

Introduction:

Acts 20:29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; **30** and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

2 Corinthians 11:14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. **15** Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

Kent Hughes No one minds the sign in the shop door that says no shoes, no shirt, no service. Few mind the gym which is for women only. But when it comes to *eternal life and heaven*, people really struggle with narrow road exclusivity.

John 14:6 I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **16** "You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? **17** "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. **18** "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. **19** "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** "So then, you will know them by their fruits.

#1 The C_____ given to those on the narrow road: False teachers **15**

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

2 Peter 2:2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; **3** 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.

Acts 20:29 I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

Isaiah 11:6 and **65:25** the wolf lays down with the lamb

#2 The C_____ to determine who these false shepherds are **16-18**

16 You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? **17** "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. **18** "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

Matthew 12:33... for the tree is known by its fruit.

Galatians 5

Hebrews 13:15

Colossians 1:10

Romans 1:13

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

James 3:12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

Matthew 12:34 "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. **35** "The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.

#3 The C_____ of the false shepherds on the broad road 19

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire

Matthew 3:10 "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 13:40 "So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.

John 15:6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

Luke 17:2 "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble.

#4 The C_____ : sheep are to look for fruit 20

20 So then, you will know them by their fruits.

Take Home:

A. Be on continual _____ for false teachers

2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as 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.

B. Stay away from false prophet _____

C. False teachers are not _____ salvation, but only the mature should witness to them

Jude 22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting; **23** save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

D. False teachers remind us that there can be false _____

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

Matthew 15:8 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him...

2 Peter 1:5 diligence, ... moral excellence, ... knowledge, **6** self-control... perseverance, and ... godliness, **7** ... brotherly kindness, and ... love. **8** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. **10** Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble

Are you _____ ?

Questions for Growth in Christ

1. Do the unsaved of the world worry about false teachers? In what way, and why?
2. Are Christians in general alert for false teachers? If not, why not?
3. Since Christians can't lose their salvation, then why are false teachers a danger to them and others in the church? In what way?
4. What would be some of the clear indicators of a false teacher from the New Testament? List at least ten indicators.
5. Why are false teachers given such severe condemnation and judgment by Christ? What does that teach us?
6. Why is it dangerous to study the teaching of a false teacher or even to try witness to a false teacher?
7. What steps do you need to take to be prepared to identify and avoid false teachers?
8. What biblical criteria are you resting upon which would assure you of your salvation?



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