

Matthew 7:21-29 “foolish or wise?”

False teachers, you will know them by their *fruit*. **The fruit is seen in 2 categories...**

One... What the teacher says (the doctrinal content of his teaching)

False teachers... The absence of **ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE...**

Is he preaching truth about **holiness, righteousness, justice. Final judgment... HELL, the depravity of man or is it topical study after topical study?**

TWO... the second area we will know the false prophet by their “fruit” is in the way they live. (Moral life)

The connection between what comes out of us and what we are is undeniable. A wolf can wear sheep’s clothing but it cannot grow a sheep’s coat. **Authenticity!**

False prophets are **PEARL ONIONS** posing as a **malt balls**... or an Oreo cookie full of **HORSE RADISH**. Wolves in sheep’s clothing...

Beatitudes, do they flow through their lives?

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT... Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.* **PRAY**

Closing out the sermon on the mount Jesus says in **Matthew 7 verse 21...**

²¹ “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. ²² 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?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ ²⁴ “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and

the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

²⁸ And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, ²⁹ for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, **Jesus makes it very clear that He is the one that will be there at the Great White Throne of Judgment. Why will He be there because as He claimed, He is God!** ²¹ “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.

This is shocking to me! It is **STAGGERING. ASTOUNDING.** The human race has an incredible capacity for self-delusion, and nowhere is that more perfectly demonstrated than in the lives of thousands of professing Christians who are not born-again.

Proverbs 30:12 There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, Yet is not washed from its filthiness.

ENGRAVED IN A CATHEDRAL IN LUBECK, GERMANY

Thus speaketh Christ our Lord to us.

You Call Me Master

You call Me Master and obey Me not.

You call Me Light and see Me not.

You call Me the Way and walk Me not.

You call Me Life and choose Me not.

You call Me Wise and follow Me not.

You call Me Fair and love Me not.

You call Me Rich and ask Me not.

You call Me Eternal and seek Me not.

You call Me Noble and serve Me not.

You call Me Gracious and trust Me not.

You call Me Might and honor Me not.

*You call Me Just and fear Me not.
If I condemn you, blame Me not.*

Note: Jesus warns us in verses 13-20 against the dangers that come from the outside. Now in verses 21-27 he warns us of dangers that come from ourselves.

Specifically, they are: 1) the danger of basing your salvation on lip service, and 2) the danger of basing your salvation on lifestyle.

Jesus continues, verse 22 "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?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Our wonderful King holds up the example of people who give a spectacular profession of belief as they stand before Christ, Only to be rejected as those who practice lawlessness.

JOHN STOTT brings to our attention 4 points that help us understand what Jesus is saying...

One... The statement made is poised and polite. They address Christ as "Lord." Even today that is a courteous, tolerant way to refer to Christ.

Two... the confession is Biblically correct. The word "Lord" (kurios) can mean "Sir," but it also a **divine title**. The context with its allusions to God as Christ's Father and Christ as Judge reveals "**divine title**".

Three... the confession is fervent and impassioned. "Lord, Lord" is said with enthusiasm and zeal.

Four... the confession is public. These professing believers did not make some private confession of allegiance to Christ but did it in front of everyone. Moreover, they even did public works in the name of Christ. This is a model confession, a beautiful one. So what is wrong with it? Nothing! It would be wonderful if we all would make confessions like this.

But here is the problem. Simply mouthing correct orthodox belief will not give us eternal life. This is not to say that correct belief is not necessary for salvation – it is. Paul makes that clear in Romans 10:9-10 “if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

A man who refuses to say “**LORD, LORD**” will **never** enter the kingdom of heaven. All true Christians say, “**LORD, LORD**” But not all who say “**LORD, LORD**” are true Christians!

Jesus does not seem to doubt their claims of doing the miraculous. He doesn't say, “You didn't really prophesy or cast out demons or do miracles.” This leads us to understand that sometimes miracles are granted through pretended believers, reminding us that in the final analysis, **MIRACLES PROVE NOTHING.**

The question arises... How did they do all these things and not be right with God?

How could wolves, false leaders, fake trees do these things? How could they prophesy, cast out demons, and do miracles if they were phonies?

it is possible they were doing these things in the power of the devil.

the Lord could have been simply using them in spite of themselves.

I don't like either answer but what else could it be?

PROPHECY IN YOUR NAME in the book of Numbers chapters 22-25 we read of Balaam giving an accurate message yet he was a hireling and a sinner. Saul was used by God when he was under the spirit of prophecy, but he himself was lost.

CAST OUT DEMONS IN YOUR NAME Is it possible for a person to do that and yet be outside the kingdom? **Luke 10 verse 17** Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”...

I THINK JUDAS WAS APART OF THE 70?

DID MANY WONDERS IN YOUR NAME The Book of Acts talks about Simon the Sorcerer, who did miracles, He was not a believer in Christ.

In Moses' day, Pharaoh's magicians copied, to a certain extent, the miracles of God, but it was by the power of the devil. [Matthew 24:24](#) For false Christ's and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

[2 Thessalonians 2:8-9](#) And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the [lawless one] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.

IN OTHER WORDS. a man may be able to do great things and get great results, but that says absolutely nothing about his salvation.

*In addition, these are not people who lost their salvation. Instead, they never truly had it (**I never knew you**). Notice also his word "MANY" at the beginning of verse 22. The many no doubt consist of the thousands who say they are saved but lost.*

The end of verse 21, "but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

WHAT IS CHRIST REFERRING TO? Is this salvation **by works?** **No.** In the context of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is referring to the Beatitudes and the deep ethical, spiritual obedience found in God's kingdom.

"**The will of my Father**" indicates the character and the conduct of the kingdom of God. It is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that is so profound and growing that it produces his character, the character of his kingdom, in our lives.

The way to test yourself is to look below the surface. Do not look at the apparent results or at the miracles or at your creedal orthodoxy, but rather look to see if your life **CONFORMS TO THE CHARACTER OF THE KINGDOM** – the Beautiful Attitudes of the kingdom of God. **Are you poor in spirit?**

Dependence and spiritual bankruptcy, mourn over sin confess and turn from evil.

Is meekness a part of your character... power under control... **Meek people have a gentleness about them because they trust God.**

Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness,

Do you forgive, and show **MERCY** and compassion... Litmus test for followers of Christ **“THE MORE MERCY I SHOW, THE MORE MERCY I’LL KNOW.”**

you have a pure in heart, thus seeing God

Rejoicing under persecution... Examine the fruits in your life...

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT... Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control.

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

This is how you **don’t** become one who hears the words, “Depart from me for I never knew you?”

Jesus illustrates... verse 24... “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: *In this poignant illustration of the two houses, each house looked the same from the outside. The real foundation of our life is usually hidden, and is only proven in the storm. The two men attend the same church, sing the same songs, send their children to the same schools. But one has been wise (did what Jesus said... obedient),* ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. **Jesus says that the storms will reveal whether we have the true foundation or not. Revealed when tested... that’s when the rubber meets the road.**

****** Jesus warns us that the foundations of our lives will be shaken at some time or another, both now (in trials) and in the ultimate judgment before God.

and the other has been a fool (the Greek word used here is "moro", from which we get moron.)²⁶ "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man **(a moron)** who built his house on the sand:²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; **AND IT FELL. And great was its fall.**"

DONALD CARSON EXPLAINS: The man who builds his house upon the shifting foundation is likened to the person who hears Jesus' words but who does not put them to practice. The man who builds his house upon the rock is likened to the person who not only hears Jesus' words but also puts them into practice. The difference between the two houses is therefore likened to the difference between **obedience and disobedience.**

James 1:22 But be **doers** of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

1 John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who **does** the will of God abides forever.

Luke 11:28 But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and **keep it!**"

John 13:17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Romans 2:13 (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the **doers** of the law will be justified;

1 John 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who **practices** righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous

Marriage counseling... 2 kinds of people those who have the tools and those who don't.

Have the tools... those who have heard the word and accepted it... 2 kinds...

1. those who use them (wise)
2. those who don't (moron)

There is healthy fear and unhealthy fear. Jesus is attempting to create a reverence and fear that is good.

In verse 13 he warns of “**destruction.**” In verses 15-20 he speaks of **branches being burned**. And in verses 21-29 he refers to the possibility of His **public and eternal rejection** of us as His own.

John Newton the famous [Anglican](#) clergyman who penned the hymn “Amazing Grace” said, “*If I ever reach Heaven I expect to find three wonders there: **first**, to meet some I had not thought to see there; **second** to miss some I had thought to meet there; and **third**, the greatest wonder of all, to find myself there.*”

²⁸ And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, ²⁹ for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. **What they just heard was not merely the opinions of man... the empty words of religious leaders. These were the words of GOD!**

He was, at the very least, the most remarkable person to walk this earth. **He came with words too incredible to believe, and with wonders too incredible not to.** His footsteps shook the world, leaving a crevasse across the centuries, separating the ones that stretched ahead of Him from those that lay behind him. The prints left by those steps were made not by the hobnailed boots of a soldier or by the tailored footwear of a senator. **They were made by sandals**, the sandals as unaccustomed to floors of marble as they were to fields of battle. **Who was the man that wore them?** This man who wielded no sword, commanded no army. This man whose steps were so foreign to the corridors of power.

About him we know so very little. We know next to nothing about His childhood. And comparatively little about his adulthood. For John tells us that if everything had been written down that he did, the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. Yet he himself wrote nothing, published nothing. His sermons were short. His prayers, mostly private. His ministry, a scant three-and-a-half years. Who was this man who changed the world, walking wherever he went in such ordinary sandals?

His name was Jesus. **MAY WE ALL FALL AT HIS FEET TO LOVE HIM WHOSE SANDALS THE VERY GREATEST HAVE ALWAYS FELT LEAST WORTHY TO UNTIE.**

Angels We have heard on high

Their voices were often the only ones who told of the birth of Christ and their lives the only example of Christian faith. Even to those who knew them, monks were mysterious figures. Their world was one of sacrifice, their sense of duty second only to their humble spirit. Yet from this spirit and life came one of the most beautiful and soaring carols of Christmas.

What can be stated with absolute certainty is that this Christmas song must have been penned by a person who had a **professional knowledge of the Bible** and an incredible gift for taking Scripture and reshaping it into verse. This fact, combined with the use of Latin in the song's chorus – making it a macaronic (**composed of mixed languages**) carol – seems to indicate that a monk or priest from the Catholic church was more than likely responsible for writing of this special carol.

Today the song is sung just as it was a hundred and fifty years ago. For many Biblical scholars, the angels coming to men who worked menial jobs in the fields and informing *them* of the birth of the Son of God symbolizes that **Christ came for all people, rich or poor, humble or powerful.**

Tidings for all people... parables with the lowly shepherds shows Jesus came for all

But while the shepherds' story of why they came to see the babe in the manger is easily identified in all the stanzas, for many who sing this old song, the chorus is an enigma. "**Gloria in excelsis Deo**" means, in English, "**Glory to God in the highest.**"

So why has this carol of unknown origin remained so popular for so long? Though the tune may be considered monotonous, when the simple text is read it becomes obvious that few Christmas songs so fully **describe the joy that the world felt when a Savior was born in Bethlehem.** **The lyrics don't just ask the singer to lift up his or her eyes and heart in wonder and observe the beauty of what God has given the world,**

they demand it. They can be no doubt that whoever wrote this carol not only believed the words found in the Bible, but relished that belief.

Ultimately, it is the sensitive retelling of the angel-shepherd story that carries this song and has made it one of the world's most popular Christmas carols. **As Kenneth W. Osbeck wrote in his devotional book, *Amazing Grace*, "The Bible teaches that angels are the ministering servants of God and that they are continually being sent to help and protect us, the heirs of salvation."**

This glorious carol speaks of the incredible, special relationship between heaven and earth, God and man, like few songs ever have. It embraces one of the most important elements of faith just as the shepherds embraced the Good News they were given two thousand years ago.

Angels are still heard, the Savior still welcomed, and the soul still stirred.