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**Matthew 7:15-20 Two Trees**

As we continue Matthew 7, Jesus continues to teach us how to live righteously. At this point, he gives a warning - to beware of false prophets, those who will influence us wrongly, regardless of how they might appear.

*15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.*

Matthew 7:15-20

In the same way that a tree is known by its fruit, we are known by our fruit - which is the visible outworking of the heart. Jesus is calling us to pay attention to the fruit of those who can influence us, and to pay attention to our own fruit, how we can influence others.

**Discussion Questions**

- In your life today, who are you allowing to influence you?
- What is the warning that Jesus gives in vs 15? Why is it important to beware?
- Read Jeremiah 17:5-8; 9-10. How are the two trees described? What are the indicators of a diseased tree? And of a healthy tree?
- Jesus also gives a picture of two trees. One healthy, one diseased, both producing fruit.
  - In regard to your own fruit, what level of influence does the Bible have in your life?
  - What influences do you need move away from?
  - In what ways are you influencing others well?
  - What do you need to change, in order to be a better influence to others?

**Prayer**

*Break up into smaller groups for prayer.*

- Who are you praying for to know Jesus?
- What gospel conversations have you had this week with someone who doesn't follow Jesus?
- How is your time with God?
- What are you praying for?
- What are you struggling with?