

# Worship Guide

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## SUMMER ON THE MOUNT - FALSE PROPHETS

*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? 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. 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 7:15-20 (ESV)*

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

Jesus is saying we are to be careful who we allow to lead us, to influence, shape and guide our lives. Who we allow to influence our lives is one of the most important decisions we will make.

*Can a man scoop a flame into his lap and not have his clothes catch on fire? — Proverbs 6:27*

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. False prophets seem safe, but they're not.

You will recognize them by their fruits.

- You've got to be a fruit inspector.

Allowing influence?

**Watch their diet.**

What do you see them consuming?

**Diets reveal desires.**

**Allowing Influence?**

Are their desires aligned with God's desires or their own?

Do we know what the people who influence us are filling themselves with?

Watch what they crave.

*But inwardly are ravenous wolves. — Matthew 7:15*

- This scripture describes a wolf as ravenous.\*\*
- Ravenous - voracious, uncontrollable.
- It's not just about what they take in, but how they consume it.
- Do they have self-control?

A ravenous person will over-consume. They have trouble with limits.

A ravenous person will eat in a hurry. There's no patience in their pace.

A ravenous person only thinks of consuming, not the consequences of their consumption.

## **Allowing influence?**

Are they more grateful than greedy?

Do they give God gratitude for what they have?

Watch them over time.

## **Time is a tool.**

- Time reveals
- ONLY time reveals the consistency of a person's character.

## **Allowing Influence?**

What do I see in someone that allows them to influence me?

## **If their influence makes you better, listen.**

- Does it make you love God?
- Does it draw you closer to Christ?
- Does it inspire holiness?
- Does it encourage you to imitate the Master?

Influence can't outpace evidence.

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