

# Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

September 28, 2025 – True and False Prophets: Discernment in the Kingdom (Part 2)

## Main Passage: Matthew 7:15–20

### Introduction

We are all called to make a choice: the narrow gate that leads to life, or the broad road that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13–14). False prophets stand at the crossroads, directing many down the broad road with teachings that do not lead to life. Jesus warns us to beware, and to examine their fruit.

### Sermon Outline

#### 1. The Nature of False Prophets

- They appear outwardly righteous, but inwardly are ravenous wolves (v. 15).
- They look like shepherds, but their motives are selfish and corrupt.
- They persuade with smooth words but lead people astray.

#### 2. The Deceiver's Two Extremes

##### A. The Legalist

- Demands strict adherence to man-made rules.
- Preaches works-righteousness instead of faith in Christ (Galatians 2:16).
- Drives people to despair and condemnation.

##### B. The License-Giver

- Ignores sin, repentance, and judgment.
- Tells people they are fine as they are, affirming sin.
- Leads many comfortably down the broad road to destruction.

#### 3. Salvation Produces Transformation

- True salvation changes the heart and life (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- We cannot continue in sin so that grace may abound (Romans 6:1–2).
- Those who know Christ will keep His commands (1 John 2:3–4).
- We are not saved by works, but we are saved for works.

#### **4. Recognizing False Prophets by Their Fruit**

- Every tree is known by its fruit (vv. 16–18).
- Examine their doctrine, lifestyle, and the effect on their followers.
- Bad trees produce bad fruit, leading to destruction.

#### **5. The Judgment of False Prophets**

- Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire (v. 19).
- False prophets face eternal judgment in hell.
- Teachers are held to a stricter standard (James 3:1).
- Many will say 'Lord, Lord' but will be cast out (Matthew 7:22-23).

#### **Application**

- Beware of false prophets — test every teaching by Scripture.
- Examine the fruit: does it lead to holiness or worldliness?
- Trust in Christ alone for salvation, not works or empty words.
- Salvation should transform your life and produce good fruit.

#### **Conclusion**

False prophets are dangerous because they distort the Gospel and lead many astray. But Christ is the true Shepherd who saves and transforms. Enter through the narrow gate, trusting in Him alone. Repent, believe, and bear fruit that glorifies God.

“False prophets don’t always lie — sometimes the danger is in what they don’t say. Silence about sin is deadly.”

“Don’t be deceived by the leaves, but inspect the fruit. If the fruit doesn’t drive you to repentance, salvation, and holiness, do not eat it.”