

Jesus tells His followers that they will recognize false prophets by their “fruit,” but He doesn’t specify what He means by that. Commentators differ on what “fruit” means in this context. Most think He is speaking to matters of character, but some think He is speaking of the teaching itself, whether it aligns with God’s nature and His Word. What do you think Jesus means by “fruit”?

You would think that our access to information would make it easier for us to practice discernment. But this is not so; with the glut of information available to us, it is not easy to distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources, and artificial intelligence has made it even easier for bad actors to deceive millions. There was never a time when we needed discernment more than we need it now.

teachers: that they are dangerous in their deception and that we will be able to identify them by their fruit.

- Have you ever found yourself caught up in shaky doctrine? What was so enticing about it? What real need in your life did it appeal to? What was true about that doctrine that made it so difficult to recognize as false?
- The sermon keys in on two fruits of false teachers: their teaching itself and their character. How can you evaluate the character of someone you follow online, whom you've never met and with whom you have no personal relationship? If you cannot personally know a teacher, does that mean you should not avail yourself of his teaching?

We are addicted to the internet's "hot-take" pace: we feel we must respond immediately to what we see online.

Can you remember a time when you responded too quickly to a question or issue, only later to realize that you were wrong because of missing context or simply because you responded emotionally and not thoughtfully?

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