

5/19/24 Discussion Guide

Inside Out

Matthew 7:15-20

Main Points: Jesus calls his followers to be discerning in what they take as truth. Ultimately, the Bible is the only source of authoritative truth about Jesus. Christians should be careful to evaluate what they hear and see in regards to those who claim to know Jesus by carefully paying attention to the words and actions of those who speak.

Matthew 7:15-20 CSB

¹⁵“Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves. ¹⁶You’ll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree can’t produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰So you’ll recognize them by their fruit.

Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus calls us to be on guard against false prophets. What are some examples of places/sources that are good and bad for getting information about Jesus.
2. Jesus was preparing his followers to be discerning in what they hear. Hearing something wrong about Jesus can deeply affect our spiritual lives. What are some effects that a wrong view of Jesus can have on our walk with him? What about having a right view of Jesus?
3. Jesus tells us that language and actions eventually will show us that someone who speaks about Jesus truly knows him and is a good source to know Him. What are some practical ways you can evaluate what you hear?
4. As we seek to honor Jesus in our community, how can we take steps to practically demonstrate the love and truth of Jesus in a way that is gracious yet speaks his truth to those who have been hurt by false teachers?
5. Kyle shared his hurt from a pastor preaching about him from the stage. Do you have any church hurt in the past? How does the real Jesus confront that wrong and comfort you in light of what happened?

Prayer - Spend time praying for these specific things:

1. Pray for an increased love for God’s word.
2. Pray for increased discernment for what we hear.
3. Pray that we honor Christ in our actions and words so that those who don’t know Christ see Him through us.
4. Pray that we would take Jesus’ words seriously and be on guard against lies.