

# Warning: False Teachers on the Path!

Matthew 7:12-14



**Big Idea:** False teachers seek to destroy us; so, study the Bible and stay safe.

<sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (Mat 7:15-20)

**Big Idea:** False teachers seek to destroy us; so, study the Bible and stay safe.

## Warning: False Teachers are on the Path!

1. Judge Not!
2. Look out for false teachers (v. 15).
3. Recognize the fruit (vv. 16-18).
4. Heed the warning (vv. 19-20).

# 1. Judge Not!

“Judge not, that you be not judged” (Matt 7:1).

## The Duck Principle

- i. If it looks, walks, and talks like a duck ... it's a duck.
- ii. Not judgmental, but wise.
- iii. Necessary to protect the saints (1Co 5:13; 2Ti 4:1-5).

## 2. Look out for false teachers (v. 15).

<sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.



# Watch out!

- i. Sheep's clothing – they look like us!
- ii. Ravenous wolves – they seek to destroy!

Make a point to pay attention to the people preaching (Acts 17:11).

### 3. Recognize the fruit (vv. 16-18).

<sup>16</sup> You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

## Recognize the fruit (vv. 16-18).

- i. Diseased trees look like healthy ones.
- ii. Bad fruit == poisonous fruit.
- iii. The fruit reveals the tree.

## Watchout for 4 Common False-teacher Fruits.

- i. Subtle change of Jesus, God, or the Spirit.
- ii. Easy salvation and/or life.
- iii. Minimize Christ and Emphasize Money.
- iv. Corrupt Character (pride, porn, lies, etc).

## Good-teacher Fruit

- i. Good character (1 Tim 3:1-13).
- ii. Preach the Word (2 Tim 4:2-3).

To avoid falling prey to false prophets,  
study the Bible.

#### 4. Heed the warning (vv. 19-20).

<sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.



Teachings from corrupt teachers are worthless.  
Don't try to learn from them.

We all deserve fire, but Jesus died on a cross so we would never see the fire.