

## Sermon on the Mount Part 21

True or False!

Matthew 7:15-23

### I. Both the OT and NT have accounts of false prophets and warning against them

- An example in the OT would be Jeremiah 28 when the prophet Jeremiah speaks out against the false prophet Hananiah Jeremiah 28. Read Jeremiah 28:15-17
- An example in the NT would be Paul in Acts 13:6-11 In this passage Paul defends his faith against a false prophet
- Warning Against False Prophets
  - Matthew 24:4-5 and 11
  - I Timothy 4:1-2, II Timothy 3:1-9, II Peter 2:1-3
  - Jude 3-4
  - The bible councils us over and over again that false teachers are here and now and we are to avoid them!
- With so much clear teaching and warning against false teachers it is amazing that in churches today so much false teaching is happening!

### II. False prophets are well disguised (verse 15)

- False prophets are wolves in sheep's clothing.
  - On the outside many times false prophets look just like a believer
  - The following is the reality of their theology
    - Although they have bibles they do not believe in them
    - They quote scriptures but they take them out of their context and manipulate them
    - The Jesus they claim to follow is not the Jesus of the bible.
  - In short a false prophet is a deceiver.

### III. False prophets are deadly (verse 15)

- Jesus said that the false prophet is like a ravenous wolf.
- False prophets are willing to compromise God's word and would sell us lies like "isn't it just better for all of us to get along and simply love one another."
- Jesus didn't feel that way and neither did the Apostles.
  - One of the most convincing arguments for the gospel is that cowardly men who deserted Jesus before the crucifixion were willing to die for Him after the resurrection.
  - Each one of the Apostles were willing to die for their faith in Christ. His death, burial, and bodily resurrection
  - As Jude so rightly stated they were contending for the faith, because eternity is at stake for the non-believer!

### IV. How do we recognize the false prophets? (16-20)

- Jesus that we will recognize a false prophet by their fruit
  - Basic spiritual fruits of the Christian believer are as follows in Galatians 5:22-23
  - Ephesians 5:8-10 The Fruit of the Spirit will prove what is acceptable to the Lord
- 3 things that make a true prophet (counterfeit bill analogy and studying the real bill in order to know a fake bill)
  - **Sound Doctrine:** Titus 2:6-8
  - **Holy Living:** 1Timothy 6:11-12
  - **Humility:** 2Corinthians 4:5
- 5 Marks of the false prophet
  - **They handle the word of God dishonestly and irreverently**
  - **They deny great doctrines of the Christian faith**
  - **They live ungodly lives themselves**
    - They do not possess the fruit of the Spirit marked in Galatians 5:22-23
    - They are marked by the works of the flesh as in Galatians 5:19-21
  - **Pride and Self Glorification**
    - Matt 23:2-7
  - **The Love of money**
    - Luke 16:4 Jesus said the Pharisees were lovers of money
    - Titus 1:11 The teachers taught for dishonest gain
    - II Peter 2:3 False teachers in their greed exploit with false words.

### V. Is there any hope for a false teacher? (verse 21-23)

- The words in these verses should be very sobering to us.
  - The reality is yes there is always hope for any individual who is apart for God. Jesus is our hope!
  - The harsh reality is that there are many today who are doing a lot in the name of Christianity and in the end Jesus is simply going to say "depart from me I never knew you"
  - We really need to feel the weight of that statement. All those who are involved in false teaching and those following false teaching really don't know Christ!