

“BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS”

Matthew 7:15-23

Sermon Series: Sermon On The Mount

INTRODUCTION:

Today, we will study – “Beware of False Prophets.”

False Prophets are Unbelievers. They support the wide gate and easy way. They prey on the weak, the immature, the unstable, and the gullible.

- **“¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits” (Matt 7:15-16)**

In this message, we will meditate on:

- I. THE WARNING – “BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS” (v. 15a)**
 - A. A Call To Pay Attention**
 - B. An Important Warning**
 - C. A Common Warning (Matt 15:14; Matt 24:4-5, 11)**
- II. BEWARE OF DECEPTION (v. 15b, c)**
 - A. The Danger of Deception (v. 15c)**
 - B. The Method of Deception (v. 15b; 2 Cor 11:13-15)**
 - C. Examples of False Teachings:**
 - **Prosperity Gospel; Universalism; Salvation by Works; Denial of Hell; and Misinterpretation of Scripture (Eph 2:8-9; Matthew 25:33, 41, 46)**
- III. RECOGNIZING FALSE PROPHETS (vv. 16-20)**

“Ye shall know them by their fruits” (v. 16).

 - A. The Comparison (vv. 17-20)**
 - B. The Fruit to Look For (Isa 8:20)**
 - C. A Tree Produces Fruit According To Its Character (v. 16; Matt 7:18)**
 - D. The Destiny of False Prophets (vv. 19-20; 2 Pet 2:1)**
- IV. THE WARNING OF FALSE PROFESSIONS (vv. 21-23)**
 - A. Self-Deception and Deception by Others (v. 21; John 5:24; John 6:29)**
 - B. False Claims of Miracles (v. 22)**
 - C. The Reality (v. 23)**

Jesus states, “I never knew you ...” (Matt 25:12; Luke 12:9; Matt 7:22-23)
- V. A CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCERNMENT**
 - A. Christians are called to be vigilant and test what they hear (1 Pet 5:8).**
 - B. Test the Spirit (1 Thess 5:21; 1 John 4:1; Acts 17:10-11)**

CONCLUSION:

- A. “Beware of False Prophets” (John 10:10; John 5:26; John 6:27, 40)**
- B. ABC’s of Salvation (Rom 3:23; Eph 2:8-9; Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 15:3-4; Rom 10:9-13)**

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).