

## Matt. 7:15-23

- I. Watch out for false prophets (15)
  - A. Be on guard against the false prophets (15a)
  - B. Reason: They deceptively pretend to be good, but are really dangerous (15b-c)
    - 1. Pos: who come to you in covering/clothing of sheep (15b)
    - 2. Neg: But on the inside, they are vicious wolves (15c)
- II. Here is how you will recognize a false prophet (16-23)
  - A. You will know false prophets by their fruit (16-20)
    - 1. They will inevitably produce fruit according to their nature (16-19)
      - a. You will know them from their fruit (16a)
      - b. Illustration from creation – things produce according to their nature (16b-19)
        - 1) Things produce according to their nature (16b-18)
          - a) The fruit never goes against its nature (16b-c)
            - (1) Surely, people don't gather grapes from thorn-bushes (16b)
            - (2) Nor figs from thistles (16c)
          - b) The fruit is a certain demonstration of its nature (17-18)
            - (1) Trees automatically produce according to their nature (17)
              - (a) Pos: In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit (17a)
              - (b) Neg: But poor-quality trees produce worthless fruit (17b)
            - (2) Trees are unable to produce outside of their nature (18)
              - (a) Pos: A good tree is not able to produce worthless fruit (18a)
              - (b) Neg: Neither [is] a poor-quality tree [able] to produce good fruit (18b)
          - 2) Every unproductive tree is destroyed (19)
            - a) Every tree not producing good fruit is cut down (19a)
            - b) And it is thrown into fire (19b)
      - 2. Therefore, indeed, you will know them from their fruit (20)
    - B. Fruit is better evidence than just talk (21-23)
      - 1. Actions and truth, not just talk, will determine the Kingdom (21)
        - a. Neg: Not everyone saying to me "Lord, Lord" will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven (21a)
        - b. Pos: But the one doing the will of my Father in Heaven [will enter] (21b)
      - 2. Many will claim to be in the Kingdom, but will not be (22-23)
        - a. Many will claim to be a part of my work (22)
          - 1) Many will say to me in that day (22a)
          - 2) We took part in your work (22b-d)
            - a) Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in your Name? (22b)
            - b) And we cast out demons in your Name? (22c)
            - c) And we did many miracles in your Name? (22d)
        - b. I will refuse to acknowledge them and throw them out (23)
          - 1) And then, I will confess to them (23a)
          - 2) I don't know you and am sending you away (23b-c)
            - a) That I never knew you (23b)
            - b) Depart from me, workers of lawlessness (23c)