

MATTHEW 7:15-29

A. Matthew 7:15 - Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

1. Christ warns His disciples about **false** prophets and how to discern who they are. Since most are misled in the wrong way (wide-broad way), it is natural they are being misled by wrong, false, and **un**-regenerated leaders (Israel's religious leaders especially).

Matthew 15:1, 3, 7-8 - Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Matt. 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? Matt. 15:7 *Ye hypocrites*, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, Matt. 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.

Jeremiah 14:14 - Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

2. Christ is saying: beware, watch out, do not put any of the remnant **under** these false leaders, preachers, and teachers. Identify them, know who they are, then stay clear away from them.

Matthew 10:16-17 - Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. Matt. 10:17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

*These were with **in** Israel - apostate religious leaders of Israel who deceived many. They were **counter**feits!

Matthew 24:1 - And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

3. The whole point is that they needed to check or judge them. You need to be careful and **discern** who the true believers are and the false ones.
 - a. Just because someone does something seemingly supernatural, it does not mean they are of **God**, or God's doing, or correct **doctrinally**.

II Thessalonians 2:9 - *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

Revelation 13:13-14 - And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, Rev .13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

- b. Remember, the god of this world is powerful also. Satan is the most brilliant, intelligent, smart, cunning, crafty, and deceptive creature in the world. **There is only one who outranks and out-classes him and that is Almighty God Himself. These disciples needed to be **extra** careful.

4. Israel - Deuteronomy 13:1-5 - [If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, Deut. 13:2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Deut. 13:3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Deut. 13:4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. Deut. 13:5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.]

Note: The miraculous or supernatural is not the test as to whether something is true or not - it is the **Word** of God (here, the commandments of God).

Isaiah 8:19-20 - And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

5. John tells the Little Flock how to identify false prophets as they, the remnant, enter the Tribulation.
- a. I John 4:1-3 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 1Jn. 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 1Jn. 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.
- I John 2:18-19 - Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 1Jn. 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.
- *Some were evidently acting like they were a part of the remnant, or true Messiah believers. Yet they were deceived and **left** with the false prophets - showing they were **not** actually part of the remnant!
- b. I John 2:21-22, 26 - I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 1Jn. 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. 1Jn. 2:26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.
6. Verse 15 is saying that when the darkened inside of these false, slick, mild-mannered, and likeable preachers comes out - watch out, because they are like wolves ready to **feed** upon you. Not everyone who says "Christ" is a believer of Christ.

B. Matthew 7:16-20 - Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Matt. 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. Matt. 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Matt. 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Matt. 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

1. Luther said, "To check the fruit, you shake the tree". They are to test them, to be fruit inspectors.
2. They weren't to identify them by their works, but by their words (Isa. 8:20; I John 4:1). You try them by their spirit, the words of the prophets, what comes out of their mouths - if it is true or not. If he is of Satan, he will have a counterfeit message. Satan's deception is to do good works, which is appealing to lost man's flesh and pride.
 - a. **The very first thing that Adam and Eve did after they had sinned was to sew fig leaves (good works - rejected by God).
 - b. Israel? Romans 10:2-3 - [For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. Rom. 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.]
3. Verse 16 asks the question as to where the Jews would find fruit (life-kingdom) - in the "thorns" and "thistles" (apostate Israel), or in the "grapes" and "figs" (truth-true believers-Little Flock)?

*Christ is preparing them for the deception that will be trying to bring them down (the wide-broad way→destruction). This will be especially true in the Tribulation.
4. They also will know them by their fruits (Benny Hinn-Kenneth Copeland-Joyce Meyer-Joel Osteen-Jim Baker, etc.). How? By what they teach, and follow the money.

*Man cannot produce real fruit out of his own unregenerate nature, nor outside of God's Word. A person will give evidence if they have life from God.

C. Matthew 7:21 - Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

1. Remember, the issue is the kingdom of heaven and how one enters that kingdom. The context is not about dying and going to heaven, nor is it about getting into the Body of Christ (had not begun yet). But, it is about getting into the kingdom on earth during Christ's reign.

Deuteronomy 11:21 - That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth. (Heb. 11:16)

2. [but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.] *Remember this.

D. Matthew 7:22 - Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

1. [in that day] - This refers to Christ's second coming to the earth.

2. [have we not prophesied] - Just because one prophesizes does not mean they were sent from God (TBN - Daystar)!
3. [in thy name...in thy name] Again, just because someone uses Christ's name, it does not make them of Christ (Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses).

*They have to be checked out by what the **Word** says.

E. Matthew 7:23 - And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

1. What some thought were their wonderful works of God, Christ says **He** didn't have a part in them - ever. That will be a **blow** and shock!
2. They were actually ones who [ye that work iniquity]. They were false - a part of the apostate, counterfeit, unbelieving-in-Christ **nation**. They were claiming to be part of the Jewish remnant, but were not. This goes along with the **tares** growing together with the wheat.
3. [I never knew you:] That is the difference of evaluating or judging by man's, religions', and the world's viewpoint versus what Christ and His **Word** says (Isaiah 8:20).

* Christ is saying that just because something supernatural is happening, it doesn't mean that God is involved in it. Here, these false prophets' and preachers' works of the miraculous are generated by * Satan's system in order to **deceive**.

Revelation 16:13-14 - And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. Rev. 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

F. Matthew 7:24-27 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: Matt. 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. Matt. 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: Matt. 7:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

1. [and doeth them] (verse 21) - Remember that this is in the context of Israel-Kingdom, where it is faith **plus** required things (circumcision-baptism-law, etc) as evidence of one's **faith**.
2. This agrees with James (half-brother of the Lord) in his Jewish book for the Little Flock to **prepare** them for Tribulation, then into the kingdom.

James 2:17-20, 24 - Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Jas 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

3. The context in these verses is the Little Flock, the remnant, and the 12 - true Jewish believers. The true Israel are the wise builders who build upon a rock (Christ-kingdom truths). They hear and do God's commands. When the storm-wrath comes, they will endure.
4. But the Christ rejecters are foolish builders who build upon the sand (false religion, untruth, apostasy). When the floods of God's wrath (tribulation) hit, they will crumble and are never allowed to enter into the kingdom.

**Christ is saying that He (the Rock) is the right foundation and if they don't build upon Him...they will fall!

Matthew 16:16-19 - And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. Matt. 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. Matt. 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matt. 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

G. Matthew 7:28-29 - And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: Matt. 7:29 For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.

1. When Jesus stopped speaking, the large crowd was spellbound - left in a state of amazement.
2. Jesus did not teach like the scribes (copiers of the law - clerks) or theologians, who relied on traditions for their authority.

*But Christ, as God, had authority of His own self ("Never man spake like this man" - John 7:46).

3. Jesus spoke clearly and plainly of what He personally knew and not the opinions of Jewish traditions. He spoke of life, death, and eternity. His message came from the very heart of God.

John 1:1, 14 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

I John 5:7 - For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.