

**Mt.7.15-20 “Beware of False Prophets”**  
**Matthew Series: ‘THE KING IS COMING’ #98**  
**October 18, 2020**

When we stand at the crossroads of decision, we should remember;

- ✚ that the true way to God is **narrow** &
- ✚ that the false way is **broad**;
- ✚ the true way is **difficult** & demanding, &
- ✚ the false way is **easy** & permissive;
- ✚ the true way has relatively **few** following in it, &
- ✚ the false way has **many**.

**Jesus first gives a warning & then calls us to be watchful**

Just as He described the true & false ways, He now describes the true & false teachers of those ways.

**I. WARNING v.15**

False prophets always find a **hearing** & often are encouraged by those who are **displeased** with God’s ways. (Is.30.9–10).

There has always been a large market for false prophets, because most people do **not** want to hear the **truth**.

**1. THE DEFINITION OF A FALSE PROPHET**

God’s true representatives have been marked by two things:

- ❖ they are divinely **commissioned**, &
- ❖ they present a divine **message**.

A true prophet is God’s **voice** to men. (Ex.4.10–12).

The most dangerous characteristic of false prophets, however, is that they, too, claim to be **from** God & to speak on His behalf. (Je.5.30–31; 14.14; 23.14,16,21; Ze.11.16).

Such a shepherd is a **greater danger to the flock than wild animals**, because he comes among them as their protector;

- ✚ That is a picture of the **antichrist**, who is the prototype of all false prophets.

they died believing they were **serving** God. In truth, of course, they were serving **Satan**,  
When Jesus completely unmasked their deceit & hypocrisy (ch.23) it is no wonder they crucified Him.

The scribes & Pharisees, and those who followed their pernicious teachings, did not accept Jesus’ teaching because they were dedicated to **falsehood** rather than the **truth**.

**CONCLUSION:**

*“Let no one deceive you with empty words,” Paul warns the Ephesians; “for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_” (Ep.5.6).*

To the Colossians he says, *“See to it that no one \_\_\_\_\_ through philosophy  
& empty \_\_\_\_\_, according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of men, according to  
the elementary principles of the \_\_\_\_\_, rather than according to Christ” (Co.2.8).*