

Mt.7.15-20 “Beware of False Prophets” Pt 2
Matthew Series: ‘THE KING IS COMING’ #99
October 25, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

The false prophets may be wrong both in their teaching and their type of life.

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

I. WARNING v.15

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

They are called:

- ❖ false **brothers** (II Co.11.26),
- ❖ false **apostles** (II Co.11.13),
- ❖ false **teachers** (II Pe.2.1),
- ❖ false **speakers**, that is, liars (I Ti.4.2),
- ❖ false **witnesses** (26.60), &
- ❖ false Christs (24.24).

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits...” (I Jn.4.1).

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.
- ❖ they are called by God, & they declare the message of God & only that message.

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

Most dangerously they claim to be from God & to speak on His behalf:

- ▣ Je.5.30–31 -
- ▣ Je.14.14 -
- ▣ Je.23.14,16,21 -
- ▣ Ze.11.16 -

Such a shepherd is a greater danger to the flock than wild animals:

- ▣ This provides a picture of the antichrist, - the prototype of all false prophets.

The greatest tragedy of Jonestown was not that nearly a thousand people died;

- but that they died believing they were serving God.
- In truth, they were serving Satan.

The scribes & Pharisees were classic examples of false shepherds.

The scribes & Pharisees, did not accept Jesus’ teaching because they were dedicated to falsehood rather than the truth. (Jn.8.43–45,47; Ep.5.6; Co.2.8.)

CONCLUSION:

Beware warns of danger –

- we must be on guard against **False prophets**.
- They pervert thinking & poison the soul.
- False prophets are spiritual beasts

Peter & Jude call them “*irrational* [unreasoning] *animals*.” (II Pe.2.12; Jude 10)