

**Mt.7.15-20 “WATCH OUT!”**  
**Matthew Series: ‘THE KING IS COMING’ #102**  
**November 15, 2020**

**II. WATCHING vv.16–20**

Jesus tells us what to watch for in identifying false teachers.

The primary purpose of a fruit tree is to bear fruit.

A prophet refers to one who speaks for God

It is the tree that appears to bear good fruit, but does not, that is deceptive.

Christians can be taken in by false prophets when they are careless about obedience to the Word,

Satan loves to use God’s own people to promote his evil work

A bad tree with bad fruit is much harder to judge than thorn bushes that have grapes on them...

What a life [tree] bears has to be examined carefully to determine if it is good fruit or bad fruit.

A mature believer who has developed discernment can spot the bad tree & bad fruit (He.5.14).

Judging the fruit of false prophets, is not nearly so easy as judging fruit in an orchard.

**1. CHARACTER**

A person’s basic character—will eventually show through in what he does and how he acts.

The genuinely repentant, will also love & help his fellow man (cf. Ja.2.15–17; I Jn.3.17; 4.20).

No person is saved by good works, but every believer is saved for good works.

He appeals to the natural man & carefully avoids anything that is offensive to man’s;

**2. DOCTRINE [CREED]**

Superficially it seems biblical & orthodox – but the absence of a strong, clear theology is obvious.

The false shepherd’s way to heaven, & their way of living will never be according to God’s standards.

The creed of false prophets never has a narrow gate or a narrow way.

There is no brokenness over sin & no longing after righteousness.

They want to hear illusions, not truth.

They are enamored with pleasure & fantasy & resent being confronted with anything condemnatory.

False prophets talk –

- ✚ much about the love of God
  - but nothing of His holiness,
- ✚ much about what God will give to us
  - but nothing about obedience to Him,
- ✚ much about health & happiness
  - but nothing about holiness & sacrifice.

**3. FOLLOWERS [CONVERTS]**

False shepherds they teach & promote what the majority of people want to hear & believe (II Ti.4.3).

False prophets attract false believers - a sort of negative protection for the Church (II Th.2.10–12).

**CONCLUSION:**

***“so then, you will know them by their fruits”***