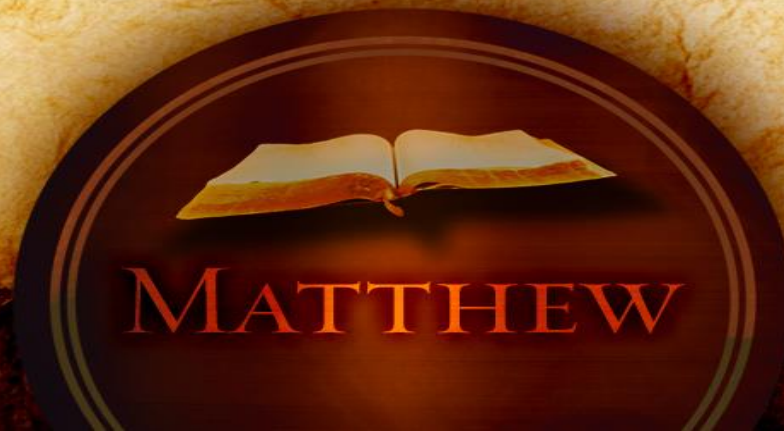




Matthew 7:15-20

Beware of False Prophets

Part 3





4 Things to look at:

- 1) His Ministry.
- 2) His Motivation.
- 3) His Message
- 4) His Morality



Matthew 7:15-20

“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. “You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? “Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “So then, you will know them by their fruits.



Matthew 7:15

15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.



3 Preliminary ways to guard against false shepherds.

1. Keep your antennae up. (Beware!)
2. Watch your walk.
3. Know the Word.



Matthew 7:16

“You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?”



Matthew 7:17-18

17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.



Doctrine of Regeneration

Ezek. 36:26-27 “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to do My judgments.”

2 Cor 5:17 “Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old things passed away behold new things have come.”



Matthew 7:17-18

17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.



4 Things to look at:

1) His Ministry.



Ask yourself the question:

- WHO is at the center of their ministry?



Genesis 11:4

“And they said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name”



Isaiah 14:13-14

(Satan)

“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’”



4 Things to look at:

1) His Ministry: Is about him or God/Christ.



4 Things to look at:

- 1) His Ministry.
- 2) His Motivation.



Ezek. 22:27-28

“Her princes within her are like wolves tearing the prey by shedding blood and destroying lives in order to get greedy gain.



4 Things to look at:

- 1) His Ministry—About him, not God/Christ.
- 2) His Motive—What he can get out of it (\$).



1 Timothy 6:5

“...who suppose that godliness [religion] is a means of gain.”



1 Peter 5:2

“Shepherd the flock of God among you, overseeing not under compulsion, but willingly according to God; and not for dishonest gain...”



1 Timothy 6:7-11

For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils, and some by aspiring to it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you, O man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, gentleness.



1 Corinthians 4:1 1

“To this present hour we hunger and thirst, and are poorly clothed, and roughly treated, and homeless.”



4 Things to look at:

- 1) His Ministry—About him, not God/Christ.
- 2) His Motive—What he can get out of it (\$).
- 3) His Message...



Jeremiah 6:14 (and 8:11)

“They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, saying, “Peace, peace,” But there is no peace.”



Jude 12-13

“....clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.



4 Things to look at:

- 1) Their Ministry: About him, not God/Christ.
- 2) Their Motive: What he can get out of it (\$).
- 3) Their Message: Ear tickling, partial, uncentered on Word
- 4) His Morality!



Jeremiah 6:13

“From the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for gain, and from the prophet even to the priest everyone practices lying.

2 Peter 1:16-19



“For we did not make known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, following cleverly devised myths, but being eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased” — and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And **we have as more sure the prophetic word**, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.”



4 Things to look at:

- 1) Their Ministry: About him, not God/Christ.
- 2) Their Motive: What he can get out of it (\$).
- 3) Their Message: Ear tickling, partial, uncentered on Word
- 4) Their Morality: Sinful, liars, worldly.