



Your Fruit

By Terry Kountz on December 1, 2022

READING: Matthew 7

We all know people who say they believe or have done certain things, but their actions show just the opposite. Here in Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus is warning us about false prophets. He warns us that there are people who are subtly trying to deceive us. They may mix in some truth. But ultimately, they are living for themselves and not sharing the true message of Christ.

How can we know when someone is leading us astray? In the same way we recognize trees by their fruit, we will know if someone met Jesus by the change in their life. Matthew 7:16-19 says, "By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them." God is good; therefore, He only produces good fruit. If the fruit of someone is not good, it is not from God.

What is good fruit? If someone is exhibiting good fruit things that show up in their life are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. (Galatians 5:22-24). These are qualities exhibited by someone who has accepted Jesus and is following Him.

PRAYER: Lord, help me follow You in all I do. Help me exhibit the fruit of the Spirit because of the time I have spent in Your presence. Help me recognize when I may be listening to someone that could lead me astray by testing them against Your Word.

TOMORROW'S READING: Matthew 8

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