

Matthew 7:15-20 **False Prophets – Known by their Fruits Command of Jesus**

¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Commandment of Jesus regarding False Prophets

✠ Beware of false prophets.

✧ They come in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. [Matthew 7:15]

✧ You will know them by their fruits. [Matthew 7:16-18, Luke 6:43]

✧ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [Matthew 7:19]

✧ Therefore by their fruits you will know them. [Matthew 7:20]

✧ False prophets present themselves as ministers of righteousness, so the hearer must be on the alert to discern the true from the false. Jesus said that you can recognize them by their fruits.

✧ Paul cautioned us about this fact:

¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. [2 Corinthians 11:13-15]

✧ Moses warned against coming false prophets who would come with enticing words and draw the people away from following God, to following false gods. They were to be identified by their message (fruits). [Deuteronomy 13:1-18]

✧ Jeremiah warned about false prophets coming with false messages when God has not sent them. [Jeremiah 23:9-32] Then he gives the test of a prophet, by saying:

But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings. [Jeremiah 23:22]

✧ A call for sinners to repent would be evidence of a true prophet, but messages that encourage people in their sin to think that God will accept them without repentance is the message of a false prophet (fruits).

✧ Ezekiel had a very similar message:

Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD had not spoken. [Ezekiel 22:28]

✧ Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and cast into the fire.

❖ God will bring a judgment of fire on all the false prophets who bear false fruit.

✧ We must be able to discern the true from the false.