

Wolves and Trees

Matthew 7: 15-23

- I. Beware of false prophets – Wolves (7:15).
 - A. False prophets appear godly (sheep's clothing) but are actually evil (inwardly wolves).
 - *Sheep's clothing* – We should expect false prophets to seem like good people.
 - B. False prophets claim to speak for God but actually hate God and the gospel.
 - *Inwardly wolves* – False prophets tell satanic lies about the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 11:13-15).
- II. Recognize false prophets – Bad trees (7: 16-20).
 - A. False prophets are recognized by their fruit just like trees are recognized when you eat their fruit (16-18).
 - Key issue: Is “fruit” what false prophets DO that is BAD or what they SAY that is WRONG?
 - Jesus: Bad fruit is what people SAY because of their evil hearts (Matthew 12:33-35).
 - False teachers deceive about Jesus and the gospel (1 John 4:1-3; 2 Peter 2:1-3).
 - B. False prophets will be judged like bad trees are burned up (19-20).
 - *Burned up* – God will judge false prophets.