

How to Treat People in Christ's Kingdom

Matthew 7:15-20

October 16, 2022

1. Jesus says his would-be followers have **only** two options

Metaphor	Positive	Negative
Two paths (7:13-14)	Small gate, narrow road; leads to life	Wide gate, broad road; leads to destruction
Two trees (7:15-20)	Good fruit lasts	Bad fruit; destined for fire
Two claims (7:21-23)	Entrance into the kingdom of heaven	Exclusion from the kingdom of heaven
Two houses (7:24-27)	Enduring stability	Ruinous collapse

2. False prophets are a problem in every age (Acts 20:29-30)
3. False teaching vs teaching something false (James 3:1-2)
 - a. Content test (Gal. 1:6-8; 1 John 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:3-4)
 - i. Teaching the gospel **plus** anything
 - ii. Teaching Christ is a lesser god
 - iii. Teaching to please **people**
 - b. Conduct test (2 Peter 2 and Jude)
 - i. Stirring immoral **sexual** desire
 - ii. **Greedy** for personal financial gain
 - iii. Majoring in myth and controversy
4. *"By their fruit you will recognize them"* (Matt. 7:16 & 20)
 - a. Appearances can be deceiving
 - b. Character shows **eventually**
 - c. "We teach what we know; we reproduce what we are."
 - d. **Judgment** awaits

On Your Own (better with others)

1. What insight, observation or principle did you find helpful eye-opening, or troubling from today's sermon?
2. Is there a difference between "hunting for" and "being on guard against" false prophets/teachers? Explain.
3. Rank the following teachings from most harmful (1) to least (4) Suggest another false teaching around today.
 - _____ God wants everyone to be healthy and wealthy
 - _____ Being saved by grace means anyone can live as they please and still go to heaven
 - _____ Pursuing sexual fulfillment is an individual right and has nothing to do with my relationship with God
 - _____ Political parties in America have a sacred responsibility to govern the USA using the Bible
4. Read Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17:5-8. Summarize the keys to living a lifetime of bearing good fruit.
5. *agree/disagree*
Fruit bearing is not intentional, but the natural result of a relationship with Christ.
6. READ aloud Paul's prayer for fellow believers in Col. 1:9-14. Spend time praying this for one another in your group.