

The Gospel of Matthew #72**Sermon on the Mount: chapter 7: Climax of instruction & warnings**Overview of Matthew 7:

7:1-12: 4 Feelings: the danger when you hear chapters 5 & 6 is to still try to establish your own righteousness. That will lead to 4 feelings:

7:1-5: feel superior by Law → judge everyone

7:6: feel superior by "Love" → judge no one

7:7-11: feel hopeless; need enlarge confidence in the Father

7:12: feel confused; simplified summary

7:13-27: 4 Warnings: final invitations and warnings by means of 4

contrasts:

7:13-4 2 gates & roads: wide & narrow: enter the narrow gate!

7:15-20 2 kinds of fruit: bad & good: beware false prophets!

7:21-23 2 displays of "faith": simple obedience & flashy miracles

7:24-27 2 foundations: sand & rock

Be very careful to know where you are!

GOOD AND BAD FRUIT

Matthew 7:15-20

I. WHY are they called false prophets?

A. They call themselves _____

Wolves in sheep's clothing: v15

Acts 20:29-30 "from your midst..."

Cf. Ezekiel 34

What makes them false prophets?

CONTEXT: 7:13-14

B. They teach the _____ and _____ way that does not suffer persecution (cf. 5:10-12)

Who is this today? Health & Wealth gospel

Nonjudgmental “tolerant” Christianity

“Christianity” without sin and a cross

II. HOW can you tell false prophets?

Ans: by the _____ of their lives: v16-18

What is good fruit?

CONTEXT: 5:3-12 the beatitudes: marks of true disciples

III. WHAT will be their end?

Cut down and thrown into the _____: v19

CONTEXT: 3:8, 10-12

IV. So _____ of them!

This is not a matter of preference of preaching, but a life and death issue!

Examine the fruit of the lives of those you follow on TV, writing books

Examine the fruit of your own life! Fruit shows the true nature of the plant.