



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Sermon on the Mount (Part-11)

Wednesdays
8-9 PM

FALSE TEACHINGS

10.05.21

(Matthew 7:15-20)

FALSE TEACHINGS (15-20): Who is a prophet? Who is a false prophet/teacher? Who was the first false teacher? Why do false teachers attract a huge following? What are some popular false teachings? How do we recognize false teachers? What (if any) is the connection between inner heart and external fruit? What is the 'fruit' that we should be looking for? What will be the end of false teachers (and their followers)? (For more readings: II Peter 2, Jeremiah 23)

Reflection: Are you sure you are listening to (and following) right teachings?

Mathew 7:15-20

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.

Who is a prophet?
Who is a false prophet/teacher?
Who was the first false teacher?
Why do false teachers attract a huge following ?

Who is a Prophet?

True Prophet Communicates God's message "Moses spake unto the children of Israel *that* which he was commanded" **Exodus 34:34**. If anyone speaks, they should do as one who speaks the very words of God (**I Peter 4:11**) He that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully (**Jeremiah 23:28**)

Prophecy (is not always about future) ... But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. **I Corinthians 14:3**

False prophet: Speaks before hearing from God or twists the Word of God or communicates only part of the message

First False Teacher

Satan (Genesis 3:1-5)

Today's false teachers use the same strategy of
deception,
diluting the truth, &
appealing to flesh

False Teachings

We have been warned!

What are some common false teachings?

How do we identify false teachers?

We shouldn't be surprised ...we have been warned against false teachings

Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: **they speak a vision of their own heart**, and not out of the mouth of the Lord.²¹ I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: **I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.**
Jeremiah 23:16,21, Jeremiah 14:14

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. **Matthew 24:11**

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. **Acts 20:29**

What are some common
false teachings?

Some common and dangerous false teachings

- No Hell - Focus on God's love, and ignore God's Justice
- Deny virgin birth, death on the cross, resurrection, second coming
- Faith + works needed to receive salvation/enter heaven
- Multiple ways to reach God
- God's grace & forgiveness permits us to live a life of compromise/sin
- Bible is not the complete revelation
- Salvation can be lost
- Prosperity gospel
- ... and more

What are some ways to
identify false teachers?

Lord looks at the heart

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves” (15) You will know them by their fruits (16)

External (visible): Sheep's clothing

Internal (not visible): Wolves

We cannot fully discern the unseen heart of others, hence we must examine the visible fruits.

“A good man out of the good treasure of his **heart bringeth forth** that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh” **Luke 6:45.**

But those things which proceed out of the mouth **come from the heart**, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: **Mathew 15:18-19**

How to recognize false teachers?

- By their fruits (impact of their ministry)
- By their personal character (absence of fruit of the Spirit)
- By their ambitions
- By their testimony among believers
- By the type of followers they attract
- By their interpretation of God's word: often incomplete & incorrect

Guard yourself against false teachings

“believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” **I John 4:1**

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” **I Thessalonians 5:21**

“they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so **Acts 17:11**

Jeremiah 23, False Prophets:

- Scattered the sheep and did not feed them (1-2)
- Lacked holiness (11)
- Committed adultery and walked in lies (14)
- Spoke their own vision (16)
- Sugar coated the messages - peace and no judgement (17)
- Not sent by God nor given a message by God (21)
- Lead people astray (22)

God will hold them accountable (2,15, 40)

II Peter 2, False teachers:

- Secretly infuse false teachings that destroys people (1)
- Attract many and tarnish the testimony of church (2)
- Use deceptive words (3)
- Deceive others/themselves (13)
- Full of adultery and covetousness (14)
- Sin of Balaam (leading others astray) (15)
- Ineffective – wells without water/clouds without rain (17)
- Words that appeal to flesh, rather than spirit (18)
- Preach freedom, but are themselves slaves to sin (19)

There will be false teachers (1)

End of false teachers ... justice & destruction (1,3, 4-6, 17)

What divides a church?

Is it True Versus False Teachings?

What divides a church?

Oftentimes, it is not true versus false teaching

- Churches often divide on less significant elements like pattern of service, traditional versus contemporary music, personality differences, etc.
- We should not to be self-righteous and look down on other churches that are spiritually sound but function differently.
 - Biblical **principles** must not be compromised, but **practices** can vary.
- False teaching = Teaching/Doctrine that is not consistent with the Bible



**Are you sure you are listening to
(and following)
True Teachings?**



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