

Beware Of False Prophets

Matthew 7:15-23

Intro:

- A. **Jesus has taught His disciples about judging one's brother. V.3&5**
 - 1. The same measure we use to judge others will be used by them to judge us.
 - 2. We should not be critical of others unless we are certain we are free from the same fault.

- B. **Jesus, at this point in His sermon, tells His disciples to beware of false prophets.**
 - 1. There is a startling truth spoken by Him.
 - 2. They are to be judged by their, "fruits".
 - 3. These, "fruits" are not what they do in Jesus' name but what they say in His name.
 - 4. What is the "wolf" clothed in? **v.22**

I. The Warning Of Jesus.

- A. **"Beware of false prophets..." v.15**
 - 1. beware = προσεχω = "to turn one's mind to," "to pay attention", "to give heed"
 - 2. false prophet = ψευδοπροφητης = "one falsely professing to come as a messenger, and a message from God."

- B. **"which come to you in sheep's clothing..."**
 - 1. clothing = ενδυμα = "anything put on", "a garment of any kind," "the clothing worn by the ancient prophets."
 - 2. "Be on the watch for false religious teachers, men who come to you disguised as sheep..."

- C. **"...but inwardly they are ravening wolves."**
 - 1. inwardly = εσωθεν = "from within."
 - 2. ravening = αρπαξ = "ravenous", "raging"
 - 3. "but beneath that disguise."

II. The Nature Of The False Prophet.

- A. **"ye shall know them by their fruits..."**

1. know = επιγνωσκω = "an exact knowledge," "to know fully", "to recognize." V.16a
 2. fruits = καρπος = "fruit," "produce", "result".
 3. Identification can be made by their product.
- B. **"Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles"?** v.16b
1. "can grapes be picked from thorn bushes..." - TCNT
 2. "can you gather figs from thistle clumps"?
- C. **"Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit."** V.17
1. good = αγαθος = "good of its kind", "admirable"
 2. fruit = καρπος = A, 2
 3. corrupt = σαπρος = "rotten," "decayed", "used of things unsuitable," "things unusable", "unfit", "bad".
 4. Trees bear fruit according their nature.
 5. A tree cannot bear fruit contrary to its nature. V.18
 6. The end of the rotten tree. V.19
- D. **"wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."**
1. fruits = καρπος (same) A,2
 2. know = επιγνωσκω (same) A,1

III. The End Of The False Prophets.

- A. **"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;"** v.21
1. saith = λεγω = "to lay before", "relate"
 2. enter = εισερχομαι = "to come or go into"
 3. "It is not everyone who keeps saying to me, Master, Master, who shall enter the kingdom fo heaven."
- B. **"..but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."**
1. doeth = ποιω = "to make", "to form", "to produce"
 2. will = θελημα = "active volition", "desire"

3. "...but the man who actually does my Heavenly Father's will" - Phi
- C. **"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name"? v.22**
1. Lord, Lord = κυριος = "might one, mighty one," "ruler". "one who assumes and exercises power."
 2. The same words as verse 21!
 3. prophesied = προφητευω = "to hold the office of a prophet; to do the office of a prophet, to speak forth, warn, exhort, in the name of God."
 4. "Didn't we preach in your name" - Phi
- D. **"and in thy name have cast out devils"?**
1. cast out = εξεβαλομεν = "we expelled"
 2. devils = δαιμονιον = "Evil spirits which are to be seen as influencing the lives of people for evil"
- E. **"...and in thy name done many wonderful works."**
1. wonderful works = "mighty works" = δυναμις
 2. works of power = "we did many wonder-works"
- F. **"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you..." v.23**
1. profess = ομολογω = "to speak or say the same with another", "to assent" "to agree with"
 2. Jesus does not deny that they did all these things that they have said.
 3. I never = ουδεποτε = "not ever," "not at any time".
 4. knew = γνωσκω = "to perceive", "to gain insight into", It denotes a true and personal relation between the person knowing and the object known."
 5. This man never had a personal relationship with Jesus. He assumed His office and made him right with God. He assumed the office and made-p his message!
- G. **"...depart from me, ye that work iniquity."**
1. depart = αποχωρεω = "to depart from", "go away"
 2. work = εργαζομαι = "to form by labor"

3. iniquity = ανομία = "violation of law"; non-observance or transgression of the law, whether unknown or will fully violated; lawlessness.
4. He spoke these words to those who prided themselves as keepers of the law!

IV. God's Evaluation Of False Prophets.

A. **In the Old Testament.**

1. Deuteronomy 13:1-11 "...shall be put to death"
v.5
2. Jeremiah 23:16-21
3. Deuteronomy 18:15

B. **In the New Testament**

1. 2 Peter 2:1-2
2. 1 John 4:1-