

The Authority of the King

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Matthew 7:15-27

Jesus concludes His Sermon on the Mount in Mt 7:15-27. He provides two essential warnings based upon His authority as the Son of God and the King. He warns us of the dangers and consequences of two ever-present threats: false teachers and self-deception. These two threats go hand in hand. The truth of the Word of God, clearly taught, will expose self-deception. Here are a few passages for consideration:

- **James 1:21–22**, *Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*
- **1 Corinthians 3:18**, *Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.*
- **Galatians 6:3**, *For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*
- **1 John 1:8**, *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*
- **Obadiah 3**, *The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart, “Who will bring me down to the ground?”*
- **Proverbs 14:12**, *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.*
- **Proverbs 28:26**, *Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.*

I. The Authoritative Warning about False Teachers (15-20)

- A. The Readiness (15)
 - 1. **Beware** – pay attention to; take care; to be in a continuous state of readiness to discern any future danger, need, or error, being prepared to respond appropriately.
- B. The Reality
 - 1. **Matthew 24:11**, *And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.*
 - 2. **Matthew 24:24**, *For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.*
- C. The Recognition (16-20)
 - 1. A wolf on the inside (behavior, actions, positions) and a sheep on the outside (appearance) (15).
 - 2. Promise good fruit but deliver bad fruit.
 - 3. To discern, we must examine the fruit rather than the appearances. (Note: the inclusion in verse 16 and concluding in verse 20: “*You will recognize them by their fruits.*” (17-20)
- D. The Requirement
 - 1. Teachers must believe in the sufficiency of the Scriptures.
 - a) **1 Timothy 6:3–4**, *If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, 4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.*
 - 2. Teachers must believe in the true Christ.
 - a) **1 John 4:1–3**, *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.*
 - 3. Teachers must believe in the true Gospel.
 - a) **Galatians 1:8–9**, *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*

II. The Clear Address about False Believers (21-27)

- A. Two Groups of False Believers (21-27)

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1. The verbal professor (7:21-23)
 - a) The self-deceived individual professes the “Lord” without obedience. **Luke 6:46**, “*Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?*”
 - b) The self-deceived individual follows their own will (**Matt 7:21-22**)
 - (1) **John 8:31**, *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,*
 - (2) **Colossians 1:21–23**, *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.*
 - c) The self-deceived individual rests in their own works in the face of judgment (**Matthew 7:22**). They are their own advocates. (**1 John 2:1**)
 - d) The self-deceived individual practices lawlessness (**Matthew 7:23**; see also **7:18**).
 2. The intellectual believer (**Matthew 7:24-27**)
 - a) The similarity between the wise and the foolish
 - (1) Both the wise and the foolish hear the same message (**Matthew 7:24, 26**).
 - (2) Both the wise and the foolish build similar houses (**Matthew 7:24, 26**)
 - (3) Both the wise and the foolish build in a similar location (**Matthew 7:24, 26**)
 - (4) Both the wise and the foolish build the same quality home (**Matthew 7:24-26**)
 - (5) Both the wise and the foolish get hit by the same storm (**Matthew 7:25, 27**)
 - b) The startling difference between the wise and the foolish builders
 - (1) The one difference is the blueprints that were followed.
 - (2) **James 1:22–24**, *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.*

III. The Clear Distinction of the True Believer

- A. A true Christian believes in the true Christ (**1 John 1:1-4; 5:21**)
- B. A true Christian is concerned with present sin (**1 John 1:5-2:2**)
- C. A true Christian is obedient to God’s word (**1 John 2:3-6**)
- D. A true Christian loves his Christian brothers and sisters (**1 John 2:7-11**)
- E. A true Christian will reject the world (**1 John 2:15-17**)
- F. A true Christian will discern of Biblical truth (**1 John 2:18-27, esp vs. 23**)
- G. A true Christian will practice true righteousness (**1 John 2:28-3:10**)
- H. A true Christian has confidence before God (**1 John 3:19-24**)
- I. A true Christian practices and receives answers to prayer (**1 John 5:14-17; 3:22**)

Read the Bible in 2026 in 15 minutes a day!
Romans 10:17, *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*