

FRUIT, FAKES & FOUNDATIONS

Rick Weber | 11/26/2023 | Matthew 7:15-29

Today's text gives us three warnings:

Watch the fruit.

Watch for fakes.

Watch your foundation.

True & False Prophets

¹⁵ "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. (NIV)

A tree is recognized by the fruit it produces.

Our heart is recognized by the conduct of our lives.

Orthodoxy – Right Belief

Orthopraxy – Right Practice

People generally don't reject Jesus but they reject the image or portrait of Jesus we are providing.

For Reflection:

The pursuit of producing good fruit in a life is aided by the following:

Where you put down your roots. *Psalm 1:1-3* *Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*

What you are using to nurture your interior life – *Phil 4:8-9* *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

Who is influencing you - *Hebrews 10:22-25* *"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

True & False Disciples

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

For Reflection:

Identify one way you behave in order to gain something for yourself – for your own ends, but you do it in the name of God? Confess it and ask God to place the right motive in your heart.

The Wise & Foolish Builders

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

For Reflection:

Identify one area in your life as proof of a solid Kingdom foundation. Praise God for his work in you!

Identify one area of your life that needs a firm foundation. How can you move toward that this week?

Amazed

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.(NIV)

For Reflection:

What is the fruit?

Where am I a fake?

How is my foundation?