

Beware of False Prophets Matthew 7:15-23

What are false prophets? (v.15)

They are described as “prophets” — so they claim to speak truth from God.

But they are “false” — so what they speak is not truth from God.

An Old Testament example is found in Jeremiah 28; a New Testament example in 1 John 4:1-3.

Why should we be concerned about false prophets? (v.15)

Because they are “false” — speaking truth which is not from God.

Because they are “ravenous” — their falsehood will destroy believers like wolves destroy sheep.

Not every falsehood makes someone a false prophet. But when someone teaches something that destroys faith — then they are a false prophet.

Another reason we should be concerned about false prophets is because Jesus said that towards His Second Coming there would be many false prophets arising (Mat 24:11,24).

How can we tell when someone is a false prophet? (vv.16-21)

By the fruit of their lifestyle — if they are pursuing sin willingly and without repentance — they are false prophets.

By the fruit of their teaching — if they are speaking truths that are not biblical and destroy believers’ faith — they are false prophets.

What if someone teaches something doubtful but works miracles ? (vv.22-23)

People can work miracles in Jesus’ name and be false prophets.

Jesus stated this also in Mat 24:24.

What does this mean for us?

Understand that there are false prophets.

Study God’s Word for yourself.

Help others beware of false prophets.

Beware of delighting in controversy more than in Jesus Christ.

Beware of desiring unity more than the truth of Jesus Christ.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Have you every been misled by a false prophet? Known someone who has been? What did you learn from that?

Does it make sense that some disagreements don't involved truths that can destroy faith — but other disagreements can? Why or why not?

Do you find it easier to pursue truth — or to pursue unity? Are there situations you are facing now in which you need to strengthen whatever area you are weak in?

What did the Holy Spirit do in your heart through this passage?

What is God calling you to do because of this pasage.?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

MERCY HILL CHURCH SPRING-SUMMER 2012