

## A Tree and its Fruit

**Read:** Matthew 7:15-23

**Summary:**

Throughout the Sermon on the Mount Jesus has been challenging the disciples to a life of contrast with people in the world. Disciples of Jesus have to make choices when pursuing Him; they have to be radically different.

*False Prophets*

Jesus warns those listening to watch out for the danger of wolves who would like to deceive many. False prophets are often focused on gain and prestige rather than talking about the holiness and wrath of God and the inability of people to save themselves.

*The Fruit Test*

Jesus does not offer a doctrinal test but an ethical one; what one is will eventually reveal itself in what one does. There are many tests we can apply: the character and conduct of the person – is it in line with the fruits of the Spirit? The teaching of the person is it biblically sound or just comforting? The influence of the person – do they inspire people to bitterness or godliness?

*False Claim*

Jesus confronts those who appear to do great things for Him... even supernatural things. The disciples are to be those who know God. You must be careful not to deceive yourself and must examine your life closely. You are saved by grace, but that grace should lead to obedience.

This section ends as all scripture should point us to Jesus: He is the sovereign ruler over all things, His father is God and He will come to judge the world!

**Application:**

Please select from the following questions, encouraging all to be honest and allow time for people to pray for one another.

1. Was there anything shared on Sunday that needs clarifying?
2. What did God say to you and what are you going to do as a result?
3. What parts of the Bible do you find hardest to accept and why?
4. Who honestly speaks into your life? Why not arrange to meet up with someone and ask what your 3 biggest strengths are and what area do you need to focus on?
5. Do you ever have bad days when you worry whether you are saved? How do you get through them?
6. How do you answer the questions: You may know more now than a year ago but do you know him better? You denounce more evil in life but do you love Him more?