

BIG IDEA: Kingdom people recognize false prophets by measuring how they line up with the Bible.

1) INTRO

- Aesop's Fable - The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing/Little Red Riding Hood
- BIG IDEA
- Context of "gate" & vv 21-23

2) BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS (v15)

- Beware/look out/watchful/aware – danger!
 - Eternity is at stake
 - "A soul is a dangerous thing to lose. We better be careful whom we listen to, whom we watch, & what we read."
- False prophets exist...working for Scotts "beware of dog" sign
 - Matt 24:11,24
 - Prophet – person claims to speak w/ authority of God
 - Wide gate message of ease/comfort/prosperity
 - Pilgrim's Progress – Worldly Wiseman
 - Those who deny the way is narrow & hard
- Sheep's clothing/wolf – looks/sounds/walks like a duck/sheep

3) RECOGNIZE/IDENTIFY THEM (vv16a,20)

- JC tells us we will recognize/identify false prophets/teachers
- Judging (vv1-5)
 - B/c we're people of the Word...Bible is our standard
 - Buckthorn – recognize when look closer and with care
 - Bite of apple on the farm – recognize when bite into it
 - Metropolitan Museum of Art in Amsterdam – 7 of 1827 – much harder to recognize
- But, JC tells us we/kingdom people WILL be able to recognize

4) FRUITS (v16b)

- How to recognize fruit – scribes and Pharisees

- False prophets recognized by their teaching – what say or don't say
 - Kingdom people know their Bible
 - Sin – Savior – Saving Grace/Faith
 - We can't help/save ourselves
 - JC, Bible & "mini-popes"
- False prophets are recognized by the way they live
 - Do they live according to SM (be different), Fruit of Spirit?
- False prophets sometimes aren't recognized until the final judgment

5) HEALTHY TREE/DISEASED TREE (vv17-18)

- Jesus paints the picture of healthy & diseased trees
- What comes out is what's on the inside – Matt 6:22-23
- True prophets bear the healthy fruit of the Gospel
 - They're about making much of Jesus – the way/truth/life
- Without JC, we're all diseased/sick/unhealthy trees bearing bad
 - vv17-18 don't show that we're stuck as wicked/sinful people
 - Scripture shows us that's God's consistent in saving sinners
- HS helps us to bear good fruit when we're healthy

6) THROWN INTO FIRE (v19)

- Bad trees are only good for firewood
 - Saw this in Matt 3:10 – hellfire & brimstone
- False prophets are bound for hell...and so are those who accept their teaching (of the wide gate)
 - The wide gate leads to eternal punishment in hell
 - The narrow gate of faith and trust in JC leads to eternity

7) APP & CONCL

- May we not follow the voices this world
 - "A soul is a dangerous thing to lose"
 - Let's listen to the message of Jesus and the Bible
- What we do w/ Jesus determines our eternal destination
 - We're sinners worshiping holy God who saves us
- John Newton – "I am a great sinner, but Christ is a great Savior"