



TRUE OR FALSE – PART 7

FALSE PROPHETS

MATTHEW 7:15-23

WATCH OUT: FALSE PROPHETS

MATTHEW 7:15-20

“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.”**

Don’t be deceived by appearance or promises: evaluate prophets by their fruit (character and actions).

WATCH OUT: ITCHING EARS

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-4

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; **correct, rebuke and encourage**—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ **For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.** ⁴ **They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.**

What do we desire that makes us vulnerable to false prophets? Pride? Belonging? Security? An easy path? We need the truth of genuine prophets not only for encouragement, but for correction and rebuke.

DEVELOPING DISCERNMENT WITH JESUS

JOHN 14:6

Jesus answered, **“I am the way and the truth and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.”

JOHN 16:13

But when he, **the Spirit of truth**, comes, he **will guide you into all the truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

JOHN 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; **your word is truth.**

EPHESIANS 4:15

Instead, **speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body** of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

God has revealed truth to us! We can grow in discernment and maturity by humbly seeking to grow in understanding and obedience.