



Lesson #13: Life Lessons About Discernment (7:15-20)

Our Savior concludes the Sermon on the Mount with a series of _____.

- 7:13-14 – We discovered last week a warning that we need to enter in at the straight gate for wide is the gate that leads to destruction.
- 7:15-20 – A second warning is sounded, “Beware of _____.”

Jesus is simply saying, “Don’t be spiritually _____.” In order to keep us from becoming easy prey to the wolf who travels in sheep’s clothing Jesus exposes the false prophets, points to the evidences of their damnable doctrine, and shows the end of their damnable doctrine is damnation. Jesus uses the strongest possible language to warn us – “BEWARE!”

YOU NEED TO BE AWARE THAT THE FALSE PROPHET _____

In verse 15 Jesus exposes the existence of the false prophet.

A. Their existence is _____

These false prophets walk through our neighborhoods wearing badges declaring them to be elders. They creep into houses and lead people into captivity. Colossians 2:8 says that you must see to it that no one takes you captive! 24 hours a day these false prophets are pumping into our world their damnable doctrines via our television sets, radios, and internet. Thus our Master tells us, “_____!” there is a great danger in their teaching!

B. Their entrance is _____

I’m not sure our understanding of “wolves in sheep’s clothing” is always correct. In the time of Christ those who were nomadic shepherds would wear the skins of their flock. Even so it seems that the picture the Lord uses here is that the false prophets dress like _____. They look like the kind of leaders we can trust. The puritans would say, “Their face is highly painted and powdered so as to render it _____ to the _____.”

YOU NEED TO BE _____ TO THE FALSE PROPHET’S TEACHING

In verses 16-18 Jesus exposes the false prophet’s _____ characteristics.

A. They are known by their _____ message

As we look back in the Sermon on the Mount we find some topics Jesus taught that the false prophets would tenaciously avoid.

- 1) They will not speak about _____ but Jesus did (5:21)
- 2) They will not speak about the dangers of _____ but Jesus did (5:29)
- 3) They will not speak about _____ matters but Jesus did (6:19,24)
- 4) They will not say the way to heaven is _____ but Jesus did (7:13)

B. They are known by their _____

These men are often very popular messengers and their credibility is often drawn by their _____ not by their _____. Jesus is saying that we should not mark these men by the crowds that surround them but by the _____ that they produce.

YOU NEED TO BE ASSOCIATION FALSE PROPHETS WITH _____

In verses 19-20 Jesus shows the _____ of these false prophets is catastrophe.

Jesus moves from the _____ of the rotten tree to the _____ of the rotten tree. He reminds his listeners that people who run orchards do not put up with rotten trees. Such trees take up needed space and spread their corruption to sound trees. There is no reason for their continuing existence. No competent orchardist should allow them to grow.

Interestingly, Jesus does not speak about what the tree _____ but what it _____ do. It is not the tree that actively produces bad fruit that is condemned in this passage but the tree that does not produce _____ fruit. You see the false prophet may indeed be proactive in the community but if there is no spiritual fruit because there is no indwelling of the Spirit then such a tree will be cut down.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Do you realize that there are people who got into their cars this morning to go and sit under people that are actively proclaiming a message that would cause this text to mark them as a “false prophet”? Some of those people are your _____ and some of the people in this _____ are tempted to follow them. That’s why Jesus said, “Beware!” We are just one generation away from _____. It’s time that you learned how to be discerning in a spiritually darkened world.