



Week beginning: 15th Jun 2025

Matthew 7: 15-23 Bad Faith

Warm Up

How can you spot "fake news" or Al generated images and text? How do we know who to trust? Why do some trees produce good crops of fruit and others not? What stops a tree being fruitful?

Background and context

We are almost at the close of The Sermon On The Mount. Jesus is warning His listeners about bad faith around us and bad faith among us. We are to be on the lookout for false teaching, i.e. anyone who teaches different things from what He has proclaimed. These false prophets will sound plausible but their purpose is self-serving. One of the most challenging things Jesus says is that not all of those who say *Lord*, *Lord* are genuine believers. We need to ensure that our belief is focused on Jesus and not on our own righteousness.



Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Matthew 7:14-23. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

- 1. What are some of the *false teachings* in the world today, that sound reasonable but have dangerous eternal consequences?
- 2. Why do you think Jesus uses the picture of a wolf in sheep's clothing to describe false prophets?
- 3. How does Jesus tell us to identify false prophets?
- 4. What advice would you give to someone who is tempted by false teaching?
- 5. Jesus is the good tree. Are there others? OR are all other trees bad and rotten?
- 6. **Read v21-23.** How does this make you feel?
- 7. What mistake did the "many" make in v22?
- 8. **Read John 6: 25-29, 35-37.** What is the will of the Father? How do we do it?
- 9. What will you say to Jesus on judgement day? Will you list your "good deeds"? What would Jesus say if you did? (see v23)

Discipleship and Application



- 10. How can we protect ourselves from falling for false prophets/teachings?
- 11. What is it we need to say to Jesus every day to stop us from relying on our own righteousness?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.