

Sermon on the Mount
Our Daily life with God
How to Detect a False Prophet

September 3, 2023

Matthew 7:15-20



A. What is a false prophet?

- A religious _____, one who utters falsehoods under the pretense of speaking _____
- Sheep's clothing – clothed to look like a sheep (true _____)
- Ravening wolves – aggressive devourers of sheep to satisfy their _____ (gain), an enemy of the sheep

B. How to discern various prophets (teachers) and respond;

1. _____ – carnal, unruly, argumentative, demanding, divisive, stubborn
I Cor. 3:3-9, I Thess. 5:14-15, II Tim. 2:24-26
RESPONSE – instruct, _____, avoid I Cor. 11:18-19, Rom. 16:17-18
2. _____ – fornicator, covetous, idolater, railer, drunkard, extortioner I Cor. 5:9-13
RESPONSE – pray, restore, don't argue, separate, restore only when _____
Gal. 6:1-2, Eph. 4:31-32
3. _____ – seeks a following for money, power/position and/or sensuality, _____ is
questionable II Peter 2 (ISV)
RESPONSE – do not receive, sharply _____ II John 9-11, Titus 1:10-13

C. Methods typically used by a false prophet;

1. Undermining God-given _____ Gen. 3:2-5
2. Exploiting younger or weaker _____
3. Turns the meaning of grace into _____ Jude 4

D. Characteristics of a true prophet – a good tree

1. Produces seeds for _____ generations
2. Produces good fruit after its _____
3. Produces fruit in its appointed season – be _____
4. Produces more fruit when dwarf, less limbs = _____
5. Produces best quality fruit when spaced well and early fruit is thinned – less is _____
6. Produces good fruit that must be _____ carefully to max out benefit and prevent loss
– _____ by the beneficiaries

E. Test the _____ and try the _____ I John 4:1-6