**Matt. 7:15-20**: Some Commentary on this Passage

* **“Disciples should beware of false prophets, who look like docile sheep but in fact are devouring wolves.** To discern their presence, ***a disciple need only check their fruit***. **Job 14:4** says, “Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?” Grapes will not come from thorns, nor figs from thistles. **James 3:11–12** uses similar imagery in regard to what speech reveals about the heart. A sound tree yields good fruit, just as a bad tree bears evil fruit. In fact, a good tree will not bear evil fruit, nor will a bad tree give good fruit. A tree not bearing good fruit is cut down and burned.
* There possibly is an allusion to the Jewish leadership here in Jesus’ context, but the danger is constant and not limited to Jesus’ setting alone. The subsequent passage in 7:21–23 seems to address those who attached themselves to the Lord in some way. Thus, **the warning seems better suited to take heed of those who appear to be inside the camp but really are not**. Disciples always must keep careful watch. **Jesus’ advice is that these false disciples can be identified by their fruit**. A simple claim to be attached to Jesus or even the use of his name in ministry is not enough.” – Darrell Bock

**Important Implications:**

1. There are *false prophets* and *there are false disciples within the church* or among those whom say they are believers. – One’s claim of following Jesus is not enough!
2. Jesus advises His disciples to not only be discerning, but to pay attention to people’s fruit of the Spirit. False prophets and false disciples can be identified by their fruit.
3. Be the weariest of those who claim to be teachers or have significant influence over your spiritual wellbeing and thinking (especially regarding *doctrinal truths*, *teaching of God’s Word*, *claims of being led by God* or the Holy Spirit…).

**Helpful Passages:**

**Gal. 5:22-23**: **22**But the fruit of the Spirit is *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness*, **23***gentleness, self-control*…

**Heb. 10:24:** **24**And let us consider *how to stir up one another to love and good works*…

**Rom. 16:17:** **17**I appeal to you, brothers, to *watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine* that you have been taught; ***avoid them***.

**Titus 3:10-11:** **10**As **for a person who stirs up division**, after warning him once and then twice, *have nothing more to do with him*, **11**knowing that such a person **is warped** and sinful; he is self-condemned.

* The Greek word for “warped” here is the only place it is used in Scripture. It means “to turn or twist.” Divisive people tend to often “twist” things and are usually unreasonable (won’t chance and can’t be counseled).

**Matt. 7:24-28**: Some Commentary on this Passage

* Some texts that are alluded to: **Prov. 10:25; 12:7; 14:11**; and **Isaiah 28:16-17**.
* “God lays a precious cornerstone in Zion, a foundation stone, so that “one who trusts will not panic.” Those who have made a covenant of death will be swept away when the waters overwhelm the shelter. **The Isaiah text is a warning to scoffers that judgment comes to those who do not heed the Lord. Jesus sees his teaching *and* the association to him as the rock**. That ***both Jesus and his teaching are in view*** is clear from the previous passage about exclusion being grounded in the judge not knowing the one excluded. So Jesus argues that one who hears this teaching and does it is like the one who builds with a solid foundation that will withstand the waters of assessment. Judgment pictured as a flood is common in the Old Testament (Gen. 6–7; Isa. 28:2, 17; 30:28; Ezek. 13:10–16). The teaching in view is that of the sermon. In contrast, **the one who hears but does nothing is a fool because his house has no base to survive the torrent**.” - Darrell Bock

**Important Implications:**

1. What you do with/how you view Jesus and His teaching is of grave matters!
2. Do not ignore responding to Jesus, because Jesus warns of severe Judgement coming.

**Critical Critiques**:

* **Last Week**: A critique of “relativism” and “moral relativism.”
* **This Week:** Branching off from last week we need to think critically about the views that there is **no Hell** or **Judgement of God** where **God’s wrath**,according to scripture, will be poured out upon some people. 🡪 **Wrath of God**: *John 3:36; Eph. 2:3* (“remains on him” and it is the state we are born into). *Rom. 2:5-8*; *Rom. 3:25* 🡪 The wrath of God poured out upon Jesus on the cross is the only solution.

**Huge Problem to Discuss:** The problem is that our culture and some professing Christians have attempted to change *God is Love to Love is God*! – *Ever heard the slogan God wins or Love wins?*

* The Bible says God is love, not love is God. *People who twist this often create their own definition of love, and then attempt to judge God by that definition* they have created.

**Example:** Sometimes people say that since God = Love then he couldn’t possibly send people to hell or separate them from himself in punishment for eternity. The problem is that God is love is not just the sole single characteristic of God! **God is *just*****as well as love** at the same time. Furthermore, God is not only love but he is also **equally *wrathful* towards sin**. **🡪 *The Cross***

**Huge Point to Believe:** We don’t have a definition by which we judge God, but we have God by which we judge all definitions and examples of love by.

**What is God Like:** Love is Only One of the Many Characteristics of God Revealed in Scripture

God **Exists**, is **Knowable**, **Independent**, **Unchangeable**, **Eternal**, **Omnipresent**, **Spirit, Invisible**, **Omniscient**, God is **Wise**, **Truthful**, **Good**, **Love**, God is **Holy**; **Righteous** and **Just**, **Jealous**, **Wrathful toward Sin**, God **wills what he will**, God has **Freedom**, God is **Omnipotent**, God is **Perfect**, **Blessed**, God is **Beautiful**, and finally God is **Unity**!

**Luke 12:4-5:** **4**“I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. **5**But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, **has authority to throw you into hell**. Yes, I tell you, fear him…” -

**Matt. 7:28**: **28**And when Jesus finished these sayings, ***the crowds were astonished at his teaching***, **29for he was teaching them as one who had authority**, and not as their scribes.