

# BEWARE!

## Matthew 7:15-20

Jim Jones and the People's Temple Christian Church.....

### I. Jesus ID's their \_\_\_\_\_.

A false prophet is one who claims to speak for God, to be sent by God and to represent Him but does not, is not and cannot. The FP denies that the way of the gospel is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The FP will seem very pious at first and have the marks of a believer. II Peter 2:1-3, 17-22. He might tell someone hell doesn't exist or offer some comment that a profession of faith is sufficient, regardless of your life.

The FP will avoid teaching about those biblical principles involving a poverty of spirit, peacemaking, or the kingdom principles found in Matthew 5-7.

### II. Jesus ID's their Covering

The FP will look just like a \_\_\_\_\_ but it's more dangerous. He'll even look like a shepherd who is biblical, sincere, positive and pleasant. What Jesus is telling us is that false prophets

tend to come from \_\_\_\_\_ the church and not \_\_\_\_\_. These false prophets, although they look like sheep, are actually \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus describes them as \_\_\_\_\_. That word can also be translated \_\_\_\_\_. Even an adult sheep is no match for a wolf.

### III. Jesus ID'S their \_\_\_\_\_.

After Jesus describes their teaching and covering, He then identifies their character. Eventually, a FP's character will be revealed. I Timothy and Titus 1. Jesus tells us that we will know them by their \_\_\_\_\_. What's the purpose of a fruit tree? To \_\_\_\_\_?

Jesus also compares FP's to thornbushes. Thornbushes bear small, dark berries that, at a distance, look like grapes. It is producing bad fruit. Fruit, by the world's standards, is good if it produces success, praise, excitement and numbers. There's nothing wrong with any of those things, provided they are rooted in a

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biblical foundation that honors God. However, the church is not a business to be run on the world's business principles.

Fruit, biblical fruit, is life that grows into \_\_\_\_\_ to the kingdom norms of righteousness, humility, purity, trusting and persistent prayerfulness, obedience to God's Word.

It takes time for these things to grow but when you cannot spot doctrinal error immediately, the fruit test is a safe guide. (D.A. Carson)

A person's basic character will eventually show through what he does and says. The FP, the false believer as well, will eventually reveal himself and will not evade God's justice.

A genuine believer, however, will produce good fruit, as a practice and consistently in his/her life. If you have a person who claims to be a believer who bears no fruit, what does Jesus say happens to the tree that produces no fruit?!

What about a genuine believer? Is a genuine believer capable of producing bad fruit?

The answer is a resounding \_\_\_\_! What are we to do? The same thing we do with all our sin: Take it to the One True Sovereign who is ever \_\_\_\_\_ and will \_\_\_\_\_ us and then, get back on the narrow road.