MESSAGE NOTES

Different: How The Church Lives – Part 14

***Fruit You Can see***

**Matthew 7:13-23**

Might this message be something of a divine appointment with the God of the universe who wants to speak with you today?

**Matthew 7:13-23…**

**1. Jesus requires us to make a choice.**

Matthew 7:13-14: **13**“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. **14**But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

**2. Jesus warns us about being deceived.**

Matthew 7:15-23: **15**“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. **16**You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? **17**A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. **18**A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. **19**So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. **20**Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. **21**“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. **22**On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ **23**But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

**Fruit = What a life produces observed over a long period of time.**

(See John 15:7; Galatians 5:16-26; Matthew 28:18-20 & 22:36-40; Micah 6:6-8)

It is possible to be deceived by…

A childhood “decision” that has resulted in no meaningful, ongoing, transforming obedience to Jesus as an adult.

It is possible to be deceived by…

An outward commitment to “the church” and a life of respectability with general concern for others and sometimes “giving back” to those less fortunate – prompted by family tradition or community expectations – but with no real, personal, inward, life changing, direction-determining, relationship with Jesus.

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