

True & False (Matthew 7:15-23)

THE WAY

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 7:15-23 Overview

vv.15-20: True & False Prophets

vv.21-23: True & False Disciples

In general: how we live and act does matter

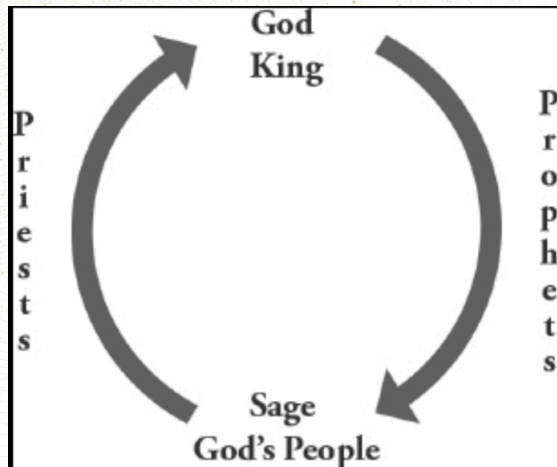
Scot McKnight: "We may be saved by faith, but we are judged by works."

Jesus emphasizes the importance of works

Prophets: pastors, teachers, ministry leaders

Walk through of 7:15-23

v.15: warning about false prophets: wolf in sheep's clothing



Walk through of 7:15-23

Old Testament criteria for determining a true prophet:

Deuteronomy 13: seem good but then will persuade the people to follow false gods/someone other than Yahweh

Deuteronomy 18: will promise things that do not come to pass

A true prophet will point you to Yahweh alone and events will come to pass

Walk through of 7:15-23

Who are the “false prophets” or “prophets” in the NT?

Matthew 23:34: Jesus will send “prophets and sages and teachers” who will help them live righteously

Prophets grouped in with others



Walk through of 7:15-23

v.22: ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’

Their hearts are far from God, Jesus calls them evil doers, he never knew them

One should not accept a leadership role lightly

Showy righteousness



Walk through of 7:15-23

v.18: “a good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit”

Fruit: spiritual growth; the outworking of what is on the inside; outcome of one’s decisions



Walk through of 7:15-23

John 15:4-5: “Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

Galatians 5:22-23: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”



Walk through of 7:15-23

Galatians 5: these fruits are known as we live life together, as we "serve one another humbly in love" (v.13) and "Love your neighbour as yourself" (v.14).

The option isn't to do nothing.

Bear good fruit over time because fruit takes time



Walk through of 7:15-23

Matthew 24: Jesus will address false prophets and deceivers

what will follow these who claim to come in Jesus' name but are actually false, will be "wars and rumours of wars" (v.6)

"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." (v.7)

the fruit of false prophets, teachers and leaders will be violence



Walk through of 7:15-23

Watch the pattern of a leader's life... the fruit, the things they set in motion... what do they lead to?

"There's probably not a pastor or a priest or a preacher preparing this text for a sermon who doesn't sense the eyes of this text staring at him or her."



Walk through of 7:15-23

This passage is a reminder to all of us to be mindful yet again of our inner lives so that the fruit we bear outwardly will be good fruit



Takeaway

Choose to remain in Christ and by the habits and practices we engage in to be formed more like Christ, together with God's Spirit, may we produce good fruit

