

“How To Spot a Wolf”

Matthew 7:15-20

Today's BIG IDEA:

We should carefully guard the gate of our hearts against false teaching.

1. Hear the DESCRIPTION of false teachers (v.15)

(Matthew 24:11)

- A false teacher is anyone who claims to speak spiritual truth but teaches something contrary to God's Word.

A. False teachers are _____ (v.15a)
(2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

B. False teachers are _____ (v.15b)
(Acts 20:29)

2. Know how to DISCERN false teachers (v.16-18,20)

A. Check the _____ (v.16,20)
(Galatians 5:19-23)

B. Check the _____ (v.17-18)
(1 John 1:4)

- Does the teaching I'm hearing line up with the whole counsel of God's Word?

i. False teachers can quote the Bible
(Matthew 4:5-6)

ii. False teachers claim to hear a “word” from God
(Jeremiah 23:16-28)

iii. False teachers claim to know spiritual “secrets”
(2 Timothy 3:15-17)

- Don't just take the preacher's word for it!

3. See the DEMISE of false teachers (v.19)

A. The _____ will face the fire (v.19)
(Matthew 3:10; 12:36-37)

B. The _____ will face the fire (v.19)

i. Unbelievers who follow false teaching will lose their

souls

(Isaiah 9:16)

ii. Believers who follow false teaching will lose their

rewards

(1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

Three important questions:

1. Do the _____ I follow produce good fruit?
2. Do _____ produce good fruit?
3. Am I _____ and _____ good fruit?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever encountered a false teacher? How/When did you realize they were false?
2. How can we spot the difference between true teaching and false teaching? What should we do if we know someone who is listening to false teaching?
3. How does today's passage apply to the things we watch, post, and share on social media? How can we be more careful?