

*Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.*

*Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"*

**Matthew 7:15-20; 21-23 (NIV)**

## JESUS ON TRUTH: ARE YOU THE REAL DEAL?

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**Matthew 7:15-20 (NIV)**

### NINE TAKEAWAYS FROM NINE VERSES

- **Verse 15:** False Prophets have always been a problem

*The word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are now prophesying. Say to those who prophesy out of their own imagination: 'Hear the word of the Lord!'"*

**Ezekiel 13:1-2 (NIV)**

- **Verse 16:** Where you search for truth matters
- **Verse 17:** Good teaching produces good fruit; bad teaching bad fruit

- **Verse 18:** Consistency speaks
- **Verse 19:** God guarantees correction
- **Verse 20:** Recognition comes from fruit over feeling
- **Verse 21:** Obedience is our expression of our love for God
- **Verse 22:** Even Judas walked near Jesus
- **Verse 23:** He sees our heart

### HOW DO WE SPOT A REAL ONE VS A FAKE ONE?

- **Check the Root**
- **Look for Fruit**
- **Let God be the judge**
- **WHY DOES THIS MATTER?**
  - **False teaching dissolves trust**

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**Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)**

### • YOUR BELIEFS MATTER

### • WHAT YOU DO WITH WHAT YOU BELIEVE MATTERS MORE

*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

**John 15:9-11 (NIV)**