

## Study of Matthew

January 29, 2022

**Discussion Question:** How do you stay aware of those that will deceive you?

Matt 7:15-23

Jesus said, beware of some things as you go through life.

Beware means **to pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to, adhere to; to turn the mind toward.**

Think about the great disasters in history where people chose not to be aware

Because people looked the other way it cost many their lives and their resources.

Sadly, in the church many are looking the other way. The warnings have been given but they choose to be ignorant. Jesus in a very direct and demanding way points out the danger of looking the other way.

BEWARE!

### 1. Bad Prophets

Wolves are still present in modern day Israel. These wolves are called “evening wolves” in Habakkuk & Zephaniah. Indicating how under the cover of darkness these wolves slip in to attack the flock.

But these false prophets are even worse than those wolves.

- They disguise themselves (Sheep’s clothing)
- They are deceptive (turn people away from truth)
- They are dangerous (destroy the flock)

There are many false prophets among us. **How can I say that?**

*2 Peter 2:1-3 “But there were false prophets, too, in those days, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly tell their lies about God, turning against even their Master who bought them; but theirs will be a swift and terrible end. 2 Many will follow their evil teaching that there is nothing wrong with sexual sin. And because of them Christ and his way will be scoffed at. 3 These teachers in their greed will tell you anything to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago and their destruction is on the way.” [TLB]*

### 2. Bad Produce

Here is the comparison between good trees and corrupt trees. In the natural world, there are many trees, vines, etc. that produce fruit. Just because they produce fruit does not mean they are good.

The word corrupt implies unfit for use; corrupt as in bad in character; corrupt morally in the way they think, feel or act; corrupt in their desires.

When we look at the fruit of a person or ministry, it will give us warning without knowing every detail. We know them by what they produce

### 3. Bad Professions

In our history we have seen many liars on the witness stand; they forever will be linked to their testimony.

There are many that profess that they know Christ but don't.

- They profess they prophesied in Jesus name.
- They profess they have cast out devils.
- They profess they have done many wonderful works.

NOTE: They say...we are back to their deceptive ways.

BEWARE when a so-called minister or ministry is always bragging about what they have done.

### 4. Protect against the Bad

The way to battle the bad prophets, the bad produce and the bad professions is in vs. 21  
*"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."*

#### How can we know God's will?

- a. Being a Living Sacrifice (Romans 12:1 – 2)
- b. Show Thanks (1 Thess. 5:18) / give means to express
- c. Sanctification (1 Thess 4:3) / by the Blood, Word, Spirit