

Matthew 7: Fruit and Foundations

Passage deals with false things we may be tempted to trust in, and the only safe place for our trust

Matthew 7:15-20 ¹⁵ “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷ So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So then, you will know them by their fruits.

A Prophet is a person given words from God to speak to His church. TRUE prophets are essential to the life of the church.
Acts 11-Antioch- Paul and Barnabas- teaching for a year, then prophets sent- warned of a famine

Jesus is not warning against all prophets and prophecy, but FALSE prophets. What they really are will be revealed!

The quality of the tree is not determined by one piece of fruit, but by the whole tree and what is GENERALLY produced.

Fruit also refers to ultimate outcomes, not short-term appearances. The tree spends the whole season making fruit and we do not know its quality until it comes to maturity.

Fruit is the most reliable indicator of nature. What KIND of person/prophet/church is this? Well, what kind of fruit does it produce GENERALLY?

Ultimately, the ones producing bad fruit are cut down and cast into the fire. We will see their destruction and fear God.

Matthew 7:21-23 ²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

Now we come to the matter of foundations: what is our hope built upon? False foundations lead to false assurance.

The first false foundation is trusting in WORDS rather than in the true foundation- a living, interactive relationship with our Father in heaven. “My Father shows me His will and I do it.”

These people were living lawless lives privately while falsely praising Jesus and doing wonders in public ministry.

The second false foundation is trusting in WORKS- even miraculous ones- rather than in the true foundation- “I know Jesus and He knows me!”

In the garden- He walks with me and He talks with me, He tells me I am His Own

Matthew 7:24-28 ²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

Last of all, Jesus reveals the sure foundation of His Words. If we listen to them and put them into practice, our lives become unassailable and strong.

²⁸ When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; ²⁹ for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.