



RESILIENT

Recognizing Fruit

Matthew 7:15-20



Save the Date: Saturday, January 11
Extended Time with God



Jesus Calls to Decision

1. Two Paths – Matthew 7:13-14
2. Two Trees – Matthew 7:15-20
3. Two Relationships – Matthew 7:21-23
4. Two Foundations – Matthew 7:24-27



Matthew 7:15-20

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.



2 Peter 2:1-3

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.



Before we get started...

1. We are not aiming for an overly critical spirit.



Proverbs 18:17

The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.



Before we get started...

1. We are not aiming for an overly critical spirit.
2. We are aiming for a discernment that every true teacher should value.



Matthew 7:15-20

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.**



Before we get to the fruit...



Before we get to the fruit...

1. It's not always immediately obvious that a wolf is a wolf.

...who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.



2 Corinthians 11:13-15

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.



Before we get to the fruit...

1. It's not always immediately obvious that a wolf is a wolf.
2. Still, there is a stark difference in fruit.

A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.



2 Timothy 3:8-9

Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.



Before we get to the fruit...

1. It's not always immediately obvious that a wolf is a wolf.
2. Still, there is a stark difference in fruit.
3. Both the teaching and the teacher are important.



Recognize them by their fruits

1. What fruit should we NOT use in our evaluation?
2. What BAD fruit should we beware of?
3. What GOOD fruit should we look for?



Recognize them by their fruits

1. What fruit should we NOT use in our evaluation?
 - a) The size of the crowd.
 - b) The pace of the growth.
 - c) Eloquence or charisma.



Size and Speed

1. Jeremiah preached for decades and saw almost no response.
2. Paul's life ended with many people abandoning him and nobody standing with him at his first defense (2 Timothy 4:16).
3. Jesus had many disciples leave (John 6:66) and only 120 people were still following him shortly after his ascension (Acts 1:15).



Eloquence and Charisma

1. Moses was “slow of speech and of tongue.” (Exodus 4:10)
2. It was said of Paul that “His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account.” (2 Corinthians 10:10)



Recognize them by their fruits

1. What fruit should we NOT use in our evaluation?
2. What BAD fruit should we beware of?



Recognize them by their fruits

1. What fruit should we NOT use in our evaluation?
2. What BAD fruit should we beware of?
 - a. Neglecting to preach the whole Jesus



1 John 2:22-23

Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ?
This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.



2 Peter 2:1

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.



Recognize them by their fruits

1. What fruit should we NOT use in our evaluation?
2. What BAD fruit should we beware of?
 - a. Neglecting to preach the whole Jesus
 - b. Manipulative gain



Greed and Gain

2 Peter 2:3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words.

2 Peter 2:14-15 They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing...

Jude 16 These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.



Recognize them by their fruits

1. What fruit should we NOT use in our evaluation?
2. What BAD fruit should we beware of?
 - a. Neglecting to preach the whole Jesus
 - b. Manipulative gain
 - c. Quarrelsomeness



1 Timothy 3:2-3

Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.



Jude 16, 19

These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires...

It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.



2 Timothy 2:16-17

But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus...



Recognize them by their fruits

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3. What GOOD fruit should we look for?



Recognize them by their fruits

1. What fruit should we NOT use in our evaluation?
2. What BAD fruit should we beware of?
3. What GOOD fruit should we look for?
 - a. The willingness to speak the whole counsel of God, yet without a contentious spirit.



Jeremiah 6:13-14

“For from the least to the greatest of them,
everyone is greedy for unjust gain;
and from prophet to priest,
everyone deals falsely.

They have healed the wound of my people lightly,
saying, ‘Peace, peace,’
when there is no peace.



2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.



Recognize them by their fruits

1. What fruit should we NOT use in our evaluation?
2. What BAD fruit should we beware of?
3. What GOOD fruit should we look for?
 - a. The willingness to speak the whole counsel of God, yet without a contentious spirit.
 - b. The positive effect on an inner circle.



1 Timothy 3:4-5

He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?





Recognize them by their fruits

1. What fruit should we NOT use in our evaluation?
2. What BAD fruit should we beware of?
3. What GOOD fruit should we look for?
 - a. The willingness to speak the whole counsel of God, yet without a contentious spirit.
 - b. The positive effect on an inner circle.
 - c. The willingness to endure struggle and reveal weakness.



2 Corinthians 11:30

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.



At Summitview...

RESILIENT



At Summitview...

1. Pastors are recognized from within the church after an extended observation of character.



At Summitview...

1. Pastors are recognized from within the church after an extended observation of character.
2. Pastors operate in a relatively flat plurality.



In conclusion...



In conclusion...

1. Jesus' warning should draw us more deeply into the church.



In conclusion...

1. Jesus' warning should draw us more deeply into the church.
2. Resilience is cultivated when we train ourselves to value the right qualities in a teacher.



In conclusion...

1. Jesus' warning should draw us more deeply into the church.
2. Resilience is cultivated when we train ourselves to value the right qualities in a teacher.
3. Jesus builds and shepherds his church.

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.