

"FRUIT INSPECTORS"

Matthew 7:15-20

Main Idea: Dangerous and deceitful false teachers are recognized by characteristics that correspond to their unredeemed nature.

Introduction: What is an *Evangelical*?

The Command to Beware of False Prophets (15)

They are dangerous and deceitful

They *seem* harmless and helpful

The Way to Identify False Prophets (16-20)

Recognized by their fruits (16-20)

Fruit cannot be produced by thorn bushes and thistles (17)

Fruit quality is determined by the health of the tree (18-19)

Healthy trees produce good fruit

Unhealthy trees produce bad fruit
Bad fruit is inedible

Unhealthy trees are cut down and
burned

Absence of fruit or poor quality of fruit is

evidence of a false prophet (20)

The Manner in which False Prophets are Influencing Today

In the culture

In the church

Family Life Groups

“Fruit Inspectors”

Matthew 7:15-20

Main Idea: Dangerous and deceitful false teachers are recognized by characteristics that correspond to their unredeemed nature.

- 1) Can you identify any contemporary false prophets that have negatively influenced the church?
- 2) In what ways has their message been destructive, and what is the impact of their message?
- 3) Have you, personally, been influenced or impacted by false prophets? Explain.
- 4) False prophets, according to Jesus, *seem* harmless and helpful,

making them difficult to identify. How can you be proficient in discerning false prophets and prophecies?

Questions? Contact Pastor Stan at stan@ebcsalem.com