

BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS
(Matthew 7:15-20)

- I. The General WARNING (Matt. 7:15)
 - A. False prophets are DANGEROUS (Deut. 13:1-5)
 - 1. Their PRESENCE is INEVITABLE (Matt. 24:2-5, 24; Acts 20:29-31; 2 John 1:7)
 - 2. They ALWAYS find an AUDIENCE (Isa. 30:9-10; Jer. 5:30-31)
 - B. False prophets are DISGUISED (Jer. 14:14; Col. 2:8)
 - 1. They can SOUND orthodox
 - 2. They can have BROAD APPEAL
 - C. False prophets are DESTRUCTIVE (2 Pet. 2:12; Jude 1:10)
 - 1. They can PERVERT your THINKING
 - 2. They can POISON your SOUL
 - D. False prophets are DECEPTIVE
 - 1. They impersonate a SHEPHERD (2 Tim. 3:13)
 - 2. They present themselves as HARMLESS, even HELPFUL
 - E. False prophets are DOOMED (Matt. 7:13, 19, 22-23)

- II. The Counsel to Be WATCHING (Matt. 7:16-20)
 - A. False prophets are identifiable by their CREED
 - 1. Error often SUBTLE
 - 2. Error often in what they OMIT
 - B. False prophets are identifiable by their CHARACTER
 - 1. Frequently includes CORRUPT MORALS (2 Pet. 2:18-19)
 - 2. Usually includes an ARROGANT SPIRIT (Jude 1:12-13)
 - C. False prophets are identifiable by their CONVERTS
 - 1. Teaching what people WANT TO HEAR (Isa. 30:9-10; Jer. 5:30-31)
 - 2. Attracting people LIKE THEMSELVES