

THE GENUINE AND THE COUNTERFEIT

December 7, 2014 Matthew 7:15-23 by Bob Branch
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 24

MAIN IDEA: Jesus draws some lines in the sand: He calls for a commitment to Him and His way; He calls us away from other ways, and gives us a gut-check on real religion.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. **Matthew 7:13-14**

A Call to Commitment...

All “truth” is not equal.

Not a popularity contest.

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. **Matthew 7:15-20**

False teaching/teachers may not be instantly recognizable

1. We recognize false teaching/teachers by their outcomes... WHAT THEY PRODUCE over time.

“The sins of some people are blatant and march them right into court. The sins of others don’t show up until much later.” **1 Timothy 5:24 MESSAGE**

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ **Matthew 7:21-23**

2. You can say the RIGHT THINGS but not be a real Christ follower.

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” **Matthew 15:8** (Is. 29:13)

3. You can even do POWERFUL THINGS but not be a real Christ follower.

4. A day is coming when we will stand before Jesus and give account. He will JUDGE.

“He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.” **Acts 10:42**

The criteria of his judgment will be twofold:

• **Do you *know* him? Does he *know* you?**

“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.” **John 5:39-40 NLT**

• **By what we have done with his words.**

“everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” **Matthew 7:24**