

## **Matthew 7:15-29**

### **A Tree and Its Fruit (15-20)**

- ◆ “Be on your guard against false prophets; they come to you looking like sheep on the outside, but on the inside they are really like wild wolves. You will know them by what they do. Thorn bushes do not bear grapes, and briars do not bear figs. A healthy tree bears good fruit, but a poor tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a poor tree cannot bear good fruit. And any tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire. So then, you will know the false prophets by what they do.
- ◆ We should always practice vigilance; we should always keep our guard up, if we let our guard down we’ll find ourselves lost or caught by the enemies trap. There are false prophets who lie to us and if we follow their luring words we’ll be lost with them. Not only false prophets but also friends, neighbours, peers, stranger and family. There are those who pretend to be something good yet deep down they have grave intentions and we’re being encouraged to be vigilant of such.
- ◆ How do we know someone from the inside? The bible is saying by the fruits they bear. We should observe how they live and the fruits they produce. A good tree will bear good fruit and a bad tree will bear bad fruit. If we stay vigilant we’ll be able to observe and see the fruits being produced by someone. If we are not vigilant we’ll miss the true fruit and only see what is being portrayed.

### **I Never Knew You (21-23)**

- ◆ “Not everyone who calls me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do. When the Judgment Day comes, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord! In your name we spoke God's message, by your name we drove out many demons and performed many miracles!’ Then I will say to them, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you wicked people!’
- ◆ Entering the kingdom of heaven is not a matter of shouting out the Lords name; we have to do what the Lord commands us and live by faith. Let’s just not call out the Lord’s name but rather live according to what the Lord requires.

### **The Two House Builders (24-27)**

- ◆ “So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, and the wind blew hard against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock. “But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was!”
- ◆ The lessons Jesus taught on the Mount i.e from Matthew chapter 5-7 are to be adhered to. It is wisdom to listen and obey to these words; it’s like building a house on a rock, when winds and floods come the house won’t fall. On the contrary, disobedience to the teachings

is foolishness; it's like building a house on a sandy ground and when winds and floods come the house will be taken away. If we obey Christ's teachings, we'll stand strong in times of persecutions, trials and tribulations. If we disobey Christ's teachings, we'll fall in times of persecution, trials and tribulations

## **The Authority of Jesus (28-29)**

- ◆ When Jesus finished saying these things, the crowd was amazed at the way he taught. He wasn't like the teachers of the Law; instead, he taught with authority.
- ◆ Jesus' teachings on the mount by Jesus had a different feel, it left people in awe as it was full of authority. They were hearing from the Master's mouth and not from messengers. The way it was also presented was not oppressive but rather liberating.