

“Following Jesus: What Influences Me?”
Matthew 7:15-20

Instruction #1: Beware of the influences around me.

Common mistakes we make as we follow Jesus:

-We assume that we can trust people based on their outward appearance.

Matthew 7:15 “...*who come to you in sheep's clothing...*”

“When unbelievers make important decisions, they must rely on their own knowledge and understanding. You, as a Christian, have access to God’s wisdom. God’s Spirit is within you to guide you. The Holy Spirit will open your eyes to the truth of the Scriptures so that you can see things from God’s perspective. Only God sees the future, so only He can accurately lead you to make correct decisions today.” - **Henry Blackaby**

-We forget that the goal of the enemy is to keep us away from Jesus.

Matthew 7:15 “... *inwardly are ravenous wolves.*”

John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.*

Instruction #2: Examine one’s message and their life.

Matthew 7:16 *You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?*

Matthew 7:20 *Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.*”

What should I be examining?

-Their speech.

-Their life.

Matthew 7:17-18 *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.*

Galatians 5:19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Galatians 5:22-24 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

Christ in us will always produce good fruit.

John 15:5 *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

Takeaways:

The fruit of my life reveals the source of my life.

Choose carefully whom I allow to influence my life.

Matthew 7:15 *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.*