



# **Sermon Discussion Guide**

VERITAS CITY CHURCH

**Sermon:** Authentic Disciples  
**Series:** The Sermon on the Mount  
**Speaker:** Cameron  
**Text:** Matthew 7:15-23

### Discussion Guide:

1. **Read Matthew 7:15-23.** What do you notice about this passage? Observations? General themes?
2. Cameron pointed out that the structure contains two warnings: 1) the warning against the false teacher and 2) The warning against the false self. Why do you think these two warnings are relevant to what Jesus has been teaching in the SotM?
3. Do you think about false teaching/teachers often? Do you think this is a significant danger for Christians today?
4. Notice in v.15-20 that Jesus says that we identify false teachers *by their fruit*. Not by the contents of their teaching, but by the content of their lives. What are your thoughts about this? Do you typically think of "false teaching" in this way?
5. How should Jesus' teaching about false teachers inform *WHAT* and *WHO* we listen to?
6. In v.21-23, it seems like the focus shifts to *ourselves*. How do we have to guard ourselves against the "false self"?
  - a. As a reminder: we defined the *false self* as the one who does many things "in God's name" but does not actually know Him. It's the dishonest version of ourselves that counts of self-righteous good works rather than actual heart transformation and obedience to Jesus.
7. How should this scene of "final judgment" affect how we live now? Do you think Jesus is stressing the importance of the "one-time" decision of "being saved" or is he emphasizing something else?
  - a. As a reminder: we showed how Jesus meant this scene of final judgment to be an ethic or *way of life* for his followers. To always be aware of when we don't have a consistency between our hearts and lives.
8. Cameron spoke about the importance of examining our hearts in this way: we should have a **moral integrity** and an **external consistency**.

- a. **Moral integrity** - our hearts should match the “good things” we do in our lives. If we notice a disconnect, it reveals we are focused more on our works than who we are becoming through a changed and transformed heart that is devoted to Christ. We can “do good works” without ever having that whole-heart devotion and thus lack *moral integrity*.
- b. **External consistency** - our lives should match where we think our hearts to be and/or where they should be. If we notice patterns of sin in our lives, we need to see that we lack an external consistency with what we believe to be happening in our hearts. This should cause us to truly examine our hearts and lives to see where we might have the root of sin and disobedience in our hearts where we might not have noticed it before. This is why the “fruit inspection” is not only important for false teachers (as it shows us that their heart intention might not be pure), but it also reveals where we aren’t quite as whole-heart-devoted to Jesus as we might think.
- c. **QUESTION**: How do you see this factoring into your life? Thinking about where you are and what you know to be true about your heart and life, how does this help you process?