

## Home Group Discussion Questions

TBC SERMON SERIES: Learning From Jesus

Message #16: Who Can You Trust?

Matthew 7:15-23

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To watch or listen to this sermon, go to [www.templebiblechurch.org](http://www.templebiblechurch.org)

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### MY STORY:

- 1) Have you ever misjudged someone, thinking they were a good person until they revealed their true character? What caused you to misjudge them?
  
- 2) How good are you at judging people's character and motives? Elaborate.

### QUICK REVIEW:

This week we continue with our series Learning From Jesus, a look at the Sermon on the Mount. This is probably the most famous teaching section by Jesus found in Scripture, providing his disciples a contrasting framework for viewing their lives with each other and God than was popularly held. Was there anything from this week's sermon that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? How would you summarize the main ideas of this week's message?

### DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Matthew 7:15.

- 1) How would you define "false prophet"?
  
- 2) What does it mean for a wolf to wear "sheep's clothing"? Why would it do that?
  
- 3) Assuming a real wolf could put on a sheepskin, what are the innate characteristics of a wolf that would ultimately result in its true identity being revealed among sheep?

Read Matthew 7:16-20.

- 4) Here we change from wolves to trees. What is Jesus's point about the type of tree and the fruit it produces? Why can an apple tree not produce oranges?

- 5) What kind of “fruit” identifies a “wolf” or “false prophet”? What might that look like?
- 6) Do you feel it is easy or hard to identify “wolves/false prophets” in practice?
- 7) What is the difference between a “wolf” among the sheep and a badly behaved (unsanctified) sheep? (To be clear, we are talking about people in a church context now!)

Read Matthew 7:21-23.

- 8) This would have been a very shocking statement to the hearers. What is the claim of those being judged in this passage? How could they have done those things?
- 9) What is Jesus’s basis for rejecting them (vs. 21 & 23)? What does that mean?
- 10) How can we avoid the rejection of those whom Jesus says, “I never knew you”?

### **TAKING IT HOME:**

- 1) Do you think those closest to you would view you as a good tree or bad tree based on your “fruit”? What do you base that on?
- 2) In verses 21-23, those being judged had deceived themselves regarding their relationship with Jesus. Do you ever question the reality of your relationship with Jesus? Explain.

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### **Prayer Requests:**

