



## Two Trees

December 7

**INTRODUCTION:** Let's recap the Sermon on the Mount:

1. In ch. 5 Jesus introduced us to Kingdom Characteristics, marks that reflect every disciple (we enter the Kingdom through poverty of spirit—a recognition of spiritual bankruptcy).
2. Jesus spoke of the light and salt we will be as these characteristics work themselves out in the world.
3. We can only attain to such righteousness through a right understanding of God's Law (ch. 5) and by truly practicing righteousness (ch. 6 and into 7) (see bookends of 5:17 and 7:12). We not only need Christ's imputed/credited righteousness (justification/conversion) we also need his imparted righteousness, or the righteousness that comes through the Holy Spirit (sanctification).
4. Called to this righteous perfection (Mt 5:48) we ought to pray for it (Mt 7:7–11).
5. In conclusion Jesus makes 4 stark contrasts between those who are truly His disciples and those who are not: two ways, two trees, two professions and two foundations.

**KEY POINT:** you will know a disciple by their fruits

**CHALLENGE:** In one sitting, read the whole sermon often over the coming months.

**A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Isa 49:1–6, God Sized Vision)

- V. 4a- In evangelism, how can we feel deflated?
- V. 4b-5- If we are faithful, what is our reward?
- V. 6b- How do we need a larger evangelistic vision?

**P.M. SERMON RECAP** (Lessons as a Missionary)

- What were some of the lessons Ken has learned?
- How do these same lessons apply to our lives?

**READ:** Mt 7:15–19

## QUESTIONS:

1. *Last week Jesus began the long conclusion of His sermon. Is there any connection between the two ways and the two trees?*
2. *Jesus mixes two metaphors but the principle is the same. What is the principle between v. 15 and 16–19? (see v. 16a).*
3. *V. 15- Sheep yet wolves. Outwardly what does looking like a sheep convey? Inwardly what does it mean to be a wolf?*
4. *Jesus is carrying on the principle of not being discerning or judging rightly from Mt 7:6.*
5. *In the Old Testament Prophets declared the word of the Lord, either immediately or in the future. Thus, false teachers are probably what are in view here (c.f. Mt 24:11; 1 Ti 6:3–5).*
6. **If you look at the lives of false teachers today (and in the NT, e.g. 1 Jn 2:6) what can always be discerned? Share examples. We not only measure their orthodoxy but their \_\_\_\_\_?**
7. Does the warning only apply to false prophets or can the principle be extended to false disciples/professors (c.f. Mt 7:21–23)?
8. **V. 16–17: the principle— can you expand this agricultural/gardening image? What is it underscoring?**
9. V. 19- If a tree does not produce what is its only use?
10. **Like the destruction found at the end of the wide path what is the sobering warning here, for teachers and disciples?**
11. *V. 20- the principle reinforced again.*
12. If we recognize the real spiritual corruption within (Mt 15:10), what hope do we have to escape judgement and begin to live for Jesus and bear much fruit? (Ezk 36:25; Mt 15:21)
13. **Does that mean all who live good lives are Christians or that we recognize true Christians through their fruit?**
14. *Speaking of basic fruits here are three that come together to produce assurance. How do we know someone is a Christian or that they've truly confessed Jesus: by their lips (Ro 10:9–10), by their lives (Gal 5:22–23); by being baptized and joining the Church (Acts 2:38, 41). Discuss.*

## Coming Up:

Dec 14- I Never Knew You

Dec 21- The Wiseman and the Foolishman (No LG Dec 28/30 & Jan 4/6)