



**Sermon on the Mount**  
**Sermon Notes - Part 26**  
**Title: Recognizing God's Voice**  
**July 27th, 2025**

**Main Scriptures:** Matthew 7:15-23; Jeremiah 23:16-22; James 5:10-11, 19-20

**Main Idea:** Jesus calls us to spiritual discernment—both to guard against false voices and to examine our own hearts as we stay rooted in Him.

**1. Watch out! (Matthew 7:15)**

- This is another command—spiritual discernment isn't optional, it's a vital part of walking the narrow road
- **Who are the “false prophets”?**
  - Jesus likely wasn't naming anyone specific (i.e. the Pharisees)
  - Old Testament warnings would have come to mind (Jeremiah 23:16-22)
    - False prophets can be hard to spot!

**2. By their “fruit” (Matthew 7:16-20)**

- Watch how they live—the “fruit” is the *evidence* of their heart
  - Fruit = visible outcomes of a person's life (speech, conduct, character)
- James 2:18 - “I will show you my faith by my deeds”
  - A genuinely faithful heart produces faithful action

**3. Away from Me (Matthew 7:21-23)**

- Notice that they look the part! They're doing things in Jesus' name
- Here's the shocking warning: It's possible to miss the “log” in our own eye!
  - Luke 10:1-20 - Jesus quickly shut down their pride (v20)
  - Revelation 3:16 - “lukewarm” followers being “spit out”
  - Matthew 7:23 - “evildoers” being sent away
- “evildoers” (Greek = *anomia*): “lawlessness”; people who live as if God's law doesn't exist

→ Both the lukewarm and the lawless were **disconnected** from God's heart. They were active in ministry, yet their lives didn't reflect His word or will.

→ Following Jesus was never meant to be about religious performance. It's about **surrender**—aligning our lives with His good and perfect will.

**- Quote from Part 25: The Narrowing Road -**

“Jesus *invests His heart* in us during those moments that *press us*.

He *strengthens* us as we walk the narrowing road.

**He enables us to persevere,**

As we walk through the fire toward the tree of life.”

→ We're able to stand strong against the waves of false teaching because we **persevere together in the strength of Christ.**

#### 4. Reflection Questions:

- Who or what is shaping my understanding of God? (The Bible? Culture? Church family? Politics? Entertainment? Past experiences?)
- READ James 5:10-11. Who has been an example in your life that has persevered through trials by holding on to Jesus?
- How can we individually and as a Church family grow together in listening to the Spirit with humility and discernment?

#### 5. Digging Deeper

- Bible Project Podcast — Sermon on the Mount (Episode 36)  
Available at: [bibleproject.com](http://bibleproject.com) or on YouTube