

Read **Matthew 7:15-20** and discuss the following.

Who are Jesus' disciples warned of in this passage? What are some of the distinguishing characteristics of these people?

Describe the primary role of a "*prophet*"? How are we to recognize true prophets from "*false prophets*"?

Jesus gives us the example of a tree and its fruit. In your own words, explain the main point being communicated in this illustration.

What happens to every tree that fails to yield "*good fruit*"? How are we to interpret and apply this? Explain.

The text insinuates that these false teachers might not always be so easily detected. Given what is explicit and implicit within our passage of study, how might we test a prophet/teacher/preacher? How should a true shepherd treat God's people, and God's Word? What should his life look like?

Read **Matthew 7:21-23** and discuss the following.

The passage speaks of the eventual end for every false prophet, as well as those who follow their teaching. What most sticks out to you in these verses?

How does this particular passage connect to earlier portions of Jesus' '*Sermon on the Mount*'?

What do these people hope will gain them entry to the kingdom? List the reasons they give. Why are these things insufficient?

Why should these verses serve as a caution to all that read them?

What about this passage has most comforted and/or convicted you personally?