



UPSIDE DOWN

SPIRITUAL DECEPTION

MATTHEW 7:15-23

I. False _____ can lead you astray from the narrow way to life.

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits." vv. 15-20

A. False teachers are part of the cause for few finding the narrow way to life.

Their deception: They come in sheep's clothing.

Their danger: They are ravenous as wolves.

B. False teachers can be recognized by their _____. (vv. 16, 20)

Their doctrine: Misleading teachers point to an easy and wide path.

Their deeds: Their true motivation of self-interest and pride will eventually be revealed.

II. False _____ can lead you to trust in the wrong way to life.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" vv. 21-23

A. Not everyone who claims to be a follower of Jesus will enter the kingdom of heaven.

B. The ultimate test is whether the follower is _____ to the will of the Father.

C. Jesus knows the true condition of your heart.

APPLICATION

Don't be deceived.

Do you have assurance of your personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

Cultivate an obedient heart, which springs forth out of a heart of love for the Savior.

OBEDIENCE UNLEASHES GOD'S BLESSING.

UPSIDE DOWN

DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

1. What teachings have you believed but found later to be false? Why were you deceived, and how did you react when you found out the truth?

2. Read Matthew 7:15-23. How do you react as you read this sobering teaching of Jesus? What does it cause you to want to do?

FOR THIS WEEK

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE:

MATTHEW 7:20

"Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."

JOURNAL:

Matthew 7:15-23

"Our Lord told His disciples that love and obedience were organically united. The final test of love is obedience."

A. W. TOZER

"It is Christ who is to be exalted, not our feelings. We will know Him by obedience, not by emotions. Our love will be shown by obedience, not by how good we feel about God at a given moment. 'And love means following the commands of God.' 'Do you love Me?' Jesus asked Peter. 'Feed My lambs.' He was not asking, 'How do you feel about Me?' for love is not a feeling. He was asking for action."

ELISABETH ELLIOT

3. What kind of fruit does a true Christian produce? What does fruit look like from a false follower of Jesus? Give concrete examples of both.

4. In his sermon the pastor defined "obedience" as *hear, trust, submit and surrender to God and His Word*. Why would love for God be expressed through obedience? What happens to our relationship with Him when we don't do what He commands?

5. Of course obedience means walking through the gate that is Jesus Himself and accepting His offer of salvation. Have you walked through that gate?

If you have, in what area is the Holy Spirit prompting you to obey the Word of God? What kind of fruit are you bearing?

If you have not, how are you pretending to be a Christ follower? What decision to you need to make?

JOURNAL Matthew 7:15-23

All of us stumble occasionally, and we may have seasons of bearing little fruit (1 Jn 1:8). But when we repent of our sin and receive Jesus as Lord of our lives (Jn 1:12; Acts 2:38) He changes our hearts (2 Cor 5:17), and the fruit of our lives is evidence of that transformation. This fruit includes repentance, submission to the Lord, humility and a desire for holiness.

Believers are to examine their motives, actions and the condition of their heart so as not to bring God's discipline on themselves. A spiritually beneficial question to ask yourself regularly is, *What is my spiritual condition?* The Scriptures below can help you answer that question.

REPENTANCE

Psalms 139:23-24

Lamentations 3:40

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

FRUIT

Galatians 5:22-23

John 15:1-5

James 3:17

Matthew 3:8

Ephesians 5:8-11

John 15:5

Colossians 1:10

John 15:8

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. That's a great spot to see what's coming up!

CULTURE AND THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW STARTS TODAY Ready to take your Navigate conference learning further? Starting today at 12:30 p.m. in The Den, this eight-week study led by Lance Cashion will cover how to respond to our cultural moment, develop an understanding of other worldviews and explore current societal pressure points through a biblical lens. Learn more at ccbcfamily.org/events.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Join together this Thursday, May 5 for an hour of corporate prayer from Noon to 1 p.m. As a church family we will pray on behalf of our country, church and city. Come to the Sanctuary and be a part of our kick-off corporate prayer event. Learn more by visiting ccbcfamily.org/events.

AVENEW WEEKEND From dating and engaged to newly married, couples are welcome to our AVENEW weekend conference starting next Friday, May 13. You'll receive a biblical framework to model as you walk out the Lord's plan for your marriage. AVENEW weekend is an intensive two-day conference-style event equivalent to twelve weeks of learning. Learn more or sign up at ccbcfamily.org/events.

THE STORY OF OUR SALVATION Explore the first eight chapters of Romans with Pastor Andy Bowen starting Sunday, May 15, at 10:45 a.m. in The Den. From creation to glory, you will explore topics that provide a deeper understanding of God and creation, the purpose of the law, the meaning of faith and righteousness, death and substitution, life and the Holy Spirit—just to name a few. Learn how your experience of walking with God grows as you discover the story of your salvation. Learn more at ccbcfamily.org/events.

FIND COMMUNITY IN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SUMMER STUDIES Looking for a place to connect this summer? Band of Brothers encourages and equips men through Scripture and fellowship. Women in the Word provides resources, community and growth to women. Get more info at ccbcfamily.org/events.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRIES SUMMER CAMP Head to the mountains of New Mexico with HSM June 24-29! Whether this is your first time for a summer trip or you're a seasoned veteran, you won't want to miss the crazy games, amazing experiences and sweet memories. Learn more about dates, locations and registration at ccbcfamily.org/events.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP Kick off summer the right way with the MSM staff as we head to Camp Eagle June 3-6. Learn more about Jesus, have adventures, hang out with friends and make memories. To register, visit ccbcfamily.org/events. Questions? Email Jessica at jessicab@ccbcfamily.org.

LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text CCBCFW to 833-422-7200 to get started.

