Sermon Outline

New Here?

TEXT to connect (269-280-2878): Text **"welcome"** if you are new, or **"prayer"** if you would like prayer.

November 8, 2026 **"Detecting False Teachers"** Matthew 7:15-20
Pastor Corey Kugle

Introduction

1. **Watch Out for False Prophets/Teachers** (v. 15)

   A. Watch out = always beware of, be alert, be on guard against (Matt. 6:1)

   B. God spoke through *true* prophets in the Old Testament (1 Kings 14:18; Jer. 1:9)

   C. False prophets exist(ed) then, now, and in the future (Acts 20:29-31; 1 Jn. 4:1-3; Matt. 24:11,24; Rev. 19:20)

   D. The false look ok on the outside ("sheep's clothing," 2 Cor. 11:14)

   E. The false are dangerous on the inside ("ferocious wolves," Jn. 10:12; Jer. 23:16-17)

2. **How Can We Recognize False Prophets/Teachers?** (vv. 16-20)

A. Check the fruit (v. 16, 20)

i. Character and conduct (Jer. 23:9-14; Jude 4,16; 1 Tim. 3:1-7)

ii. Words/teaching (Jer. 23:22; 1 Jn. 2:22; Jude 4)

iii. What their teaching produces in others (1 Tim. 1:4, 6–7; 4:6; 6:4–5; 2 Tim. 2:14, 16–18, 23)

B. Good trees produce good fruit; bad trees produce bad fruit (vv. 17-18)

**"Nothing is more difficult to counterfeit than virtue" – John Calvin

i. The consequence/judgment upon bad trees (v. 19; 2 Pet. 2:17; Jude 13)

*** Check the Fruit to Find Out Who's False ***

Leaders/teachers: Watch your life and doctrine closely (1 Tim. 4:16)

What's Next?

- November 15, "*Discerning the Genuine*" – Matthew 7:21-23, Pastor Corey Kugle
- November 22, "*The Only Firm Foundation*" – Matthew 7:24-29, Pastor Luke Young