



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of May 15, 2022

Tree & Fruit

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Matthew 7:15-20](#)

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

- Having issued a warning about false prophets (15), Jesus now shares a **metaphor about trees and fruit** (16-20). **What is He illustrating?**
- How does fruit reveal the **identity** (16) & **quality** (17) of a tree?
- What are **examples of good and bad fruit** for Jesus?
- What is **Jesus’ point** in saying, “**Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire**”? (19)
- A wolf might disguise himself; a tree cannot. The fruit of character, conduct, speech, and influence can tell us much about the quality of a person. The apostle Paul picks up on this metaphor of **good fruit as character** in [Galatians 5:22-23](#). How do you **know good character**? What needs to happen for a person to **have fruitful character**?
- Paul taught about **good fruit as sanctified conduct** in [Philippians 1:9-11](#) and [Colossians 1:9-10](#). How do we **know what life is good and righteous**? What needs to happen for a person to **live a good and righteous life**?
- Jesus taught further on **good fruit as how we speak** in [Matthew 12:33-37](#). How do we **know which words are the good ones**? What needs to happen for a person to **speak fruitful words**?
- Fruit takes time to grow. Sometimes, years. **How is the patience required to see fruit part** of Jesus’ analogy?
- The One teaching here is the only One who is Good, and there is no fruitfulness apart from Him. **Repent and pray together.**

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org