

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

May 6, 2013

Discerning by the Fruit

MATTHEW 7:15-20 NLT – (15) “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. (16) You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? (17) A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. (18) A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. (19) So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. (20) Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

For years, I have known two men that are identical twins, with no special features to discern one from the other. They are the exact same size and height and I always struggled to identify each one’s identity. They left town, soon returning to attended the same seminary where I was enrolled as a student. The more time I spent with them, the more I discovered their attitudes, personalities and behavior, discovering differences previously undetected. One was striving to be his best in Christ, while the other twin was simply going through the motions of being righteous. With every interaction, I was able to identify the identity of each twin by his behavior, even during church services.

This is the same concept Jesus refers to in the above verses as a principal that we, His people, should understand. Self-evaluate to understand you. Either you are of the light or of the darkness.

Note that the scripture above mentions a false prophet defined as a person regarded to be an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God, but with absolutely wrong intentions! The life and teachings of those who claim to speak for God should be tested by the Word of God: “If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” (**Isaiah 8:20**) The destiny of the false prophet is to be **thrown into the fire**. The doom of false teachers and prophets is “swift destruction” (**1 Peter 2:1**). They can be known by their fruits.

SCRIPTURE READING

JEREMIAH 5:30-31

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

There are certain characteristics of true discipleship. If you lose those characteristics, you may replace them with other things but its not true discipleship.

May 1, 2013

