

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 55. Fruit Inspectors – Matthew 7:15-20

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Introduction: With verse 12 of chapter 7 we come to the end of the principles being preached in this Sermon on the Mount. The verses that follow to the conclusion of chapter 7 give us Jesus' application of the Sermon and warnings to examine ourselves for fruit and things that give evidence, that manifest the Christian life. MLJ said of Christ and this Sermon, "His object in this Sermon is to bring Christian people to realize first of all their true nature, their character as a people, and then to show them how they are to manifest that nature and character in their daily life."

- I. Beware False Prophets – vs. 15
 - A. Sheep's Clothing
 1. Shepherds
 - a. Secretly bring in destructive heresies – 2 Peter 2:1-3
 - b. Covetousness – 2 Peter 2:14-15
 - c. Exploitation – 2 Peter 2:18-19
 - d. Boice Quote #1
 2. Satan – 2 Cor. 11:14-15
 3. Substitutes – pretend to speak for God – Exodus 4:14-16; 7:1; Jer. 23:21-22
 - B. Ravenous Wolves – Ezek. 22:27; Zeph. 3:3; Acts 20:29-30
 1. Distort Truth – Pink Quote #2
 - a. An easy message
 - b. An easy faith
 - c. An easy life
 2. Draw Away Disciples – Jer. 50:6
- II. Known by Their Fruit – vs. 16-17, 20
 - A. Inspect the Fruit
 1. Examine their lives and character – 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9
 2. Examine the lived and character of their hearers (results of their teaching)
 - B. Good Fruit – pointing to Christ (Matt. 7:13-14 – (The Narrow Way)
 1. Fruit of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22-25
 2. Be-Attitudes
 3. Real, satisfying fruit that nourishes us and others spiritually – Jer. 3:15; 1 Peter 5:1-4
 - C. Bad Fruit – Gal. 5:19-21 – Pointing to Self
 1. False Peace – Jer. 6:14; 23:2
 2. No Disturbing Doctrine
 - a. A nice, comfortable message that pleases everybody
 - b. He is never criticized or persecuted for his preaching, but defended even when he is wrong, because "his heart is in the right place" – Titus 1:10-16
 3. Not truly sweet, but sour
 - a. Not rotten, but wrong
 - b. It's not what the fruit looks like, but what it IS that matters
 - c. The proof is in the tasting – BELIEF = BEHAVIOR
- III. Good and Bad Trees – vs. 18-19
 - A. Fruit – trees bear fruit according to their nature, what is natural to them – Job 14:4
 - B. Fire
 1. The fate of worthless trees that bear bad fruit – Matt. 3:7-11
 2. On the basis not what it does (bearing bad fruit), but what it doesn't do (doesn't bear good fruit) – John 15:1-8

Quotes

Boice Quote #1 – “I find it amusing, in light of our text, that today we call an academic degree or diploma a sheepskin. For some professors and ministers clearly cover their intentions with sheepskins of higher learning while using their knowledge of the Bible and church history to damage the faith of those who listen to them.”

Pink Quote #2 – “There is nothing in their preaching which searches the conscience and renders the empty professor uneasy, nothing which humbles and causes the hearers to mourn before God; but rather that which puffs up, makes them pleased with themselves, and o rest content in a false assurance.”

Cross References

2 Peter 2:1-3

2 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

2 Peter 2:14-15

14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. 15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

2 Peter 2:18-19

18 For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Exodus 4:14-16

14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and He said: “Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15 Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. 16 So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.

Exodus 7:1

7 So the Lord said to Moses: “See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.

Jeremiah 23:21-22

21 “I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. 22 But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings.

Ezekiel 22:27

27 Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain.

Zephaniah 3:3

3 Her princes in her midst are roaring lions; Her judges are evening wolves That leave not a bone till morning.

Acts 20:29-30

29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

Jeremiah 50:6

6 “My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray; They have turned them away on the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; They have forgotten their resting place.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

3 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; 3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; 4 one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence 5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Titus 1:5-9

5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you— 6 if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, 8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, 9 holding fast the

faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

Galatians 5:22-25

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Matthew 7:13-14

13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Jeremiah 3:15

15 And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

1 Peter 5:1-4

5 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Galatians 5:19-21

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Jeremiah 6:14

14 They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace.

Jeremiah 23:2

2 Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the Lord.

Titus 1:10-16

10 For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. 12 One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in

the faith, 14 not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth. 15 To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. 16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

Job 14:4

4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one!

Matthew 3:7-11

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John 15:1-8

15 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

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