

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (WEEK 18)

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS – MAY 30, 2010
PASTOR JEFF – FRUIT (MT. 7:15-23)

connect

What's your name? When you were growing up, what "wolves in sheep's clothing" did your parents warn you to stay away from? OR Ever been tricked by someone? Explain how they did it.

study

1. What are some common reactions people have today to warnings? Explain.
2. Read Matthew 7:15-20. What's the first way Jesus warns us & says we can be deceived?
3. Jesus says we can recognize false prophets by their "fruit." Jeff listed 2 areas to examine in a teacher—what are they? Which of these two did you find most helpful, and why?
4. Read Matthew 7:21-23. What's the second way Jesus warns us & says we can be deceived? When does Jesus say many people will discover they've deceived themselves? Why is the timing of their discovery such a serious matter?
5. Read the Parable of the Two Sons found in Matthew 21:28-32. Which son did the will of his father? How does this parable relate to this teaching in the Sermon on the Mount?
6. Jeff listed 2 ways we can guard against self-deception—what are they? Which one of these do you find most challenging to practice, and why?
7. What "good fruit" is Jesus looking for? Review the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12. Why does Jesus say these attitudes are "blessed?" What's the key beatitude to His fruit in our lives? Why?
8. In John 15:1-8,16, Jesus repeats the word "fruit" more than 7 times. According to Jesus, if we want to bear the right fruit, what's our responsibility (see John 15:4)? Discuss practical ways we can "abide" or "remain" in Jesus all throughout the day in our everyday lives.

9. What's the one thing you know you need to do as a result of this message? What is the main thing that God has revealed to you?

pray

1. Pray that we will be men and women who are interested in knowing Jesus & the fruit that can only develop in a growing relationship of obedience to Him.
2. Prayer requests – how can you specifically pray for each other this week?