

READ

Matthew 7:15-20

CONSIDER

Once in a while, I will have an embarrassing moment where I bump into someone and they recognize me but I do not recognize them. In today's text, Jesus teaches us that it's important to be able to recognize a false prophet.

The way that we discern this is by observing the fruit of their life in Christ. A good tree only bears good fruit and a bad tree only bears bad fruit. In order to avoid straying from the path Christ has called us to walk along, we must be discerning.

This week, as we continue to explore the marks of a true disciple, I hope we will be able to see the call to bear fruit as a way to discern those who know Christ and those who do not. Looking forward to worshipping together as we move toward the end of the Sermon on the Mount.

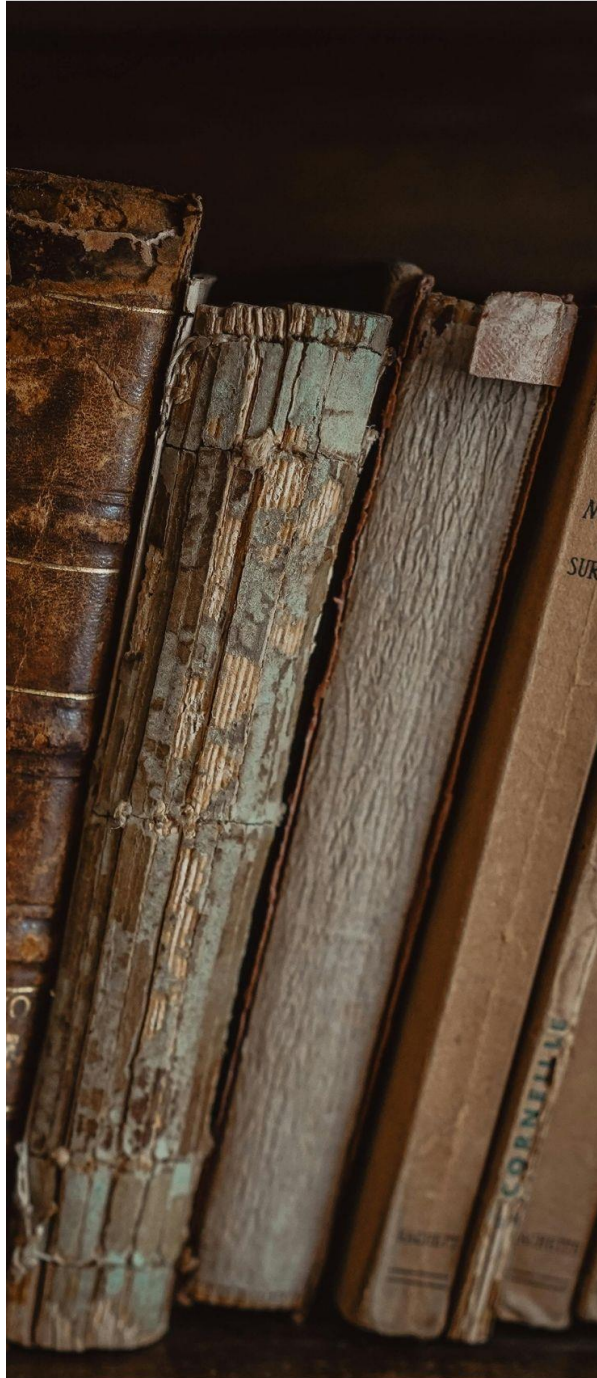
See you Sunday.

Pastor Tim Sreedharan

PRAY

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." – Gal 5:22-23

Lord, help us to be a people who bear fruit as we abide in You. As we continue to hear your words and put them into practice, may your Spirit lead us so we may bear witness, as salt & light, to the world around us. Amen



WEEK 8

THE TWO TEACHERS

MATTHEW
7:15-20

- **A false prophet** is often a leader within the Christian community. What are examples of false prophets today? And what is appealing about their message?
- **Read** through the passage. How does the passage instruct us to discern a false prophet? (note the word that is repeated the most in this passage)
- **Read** through these other passages in the New Testament about fruit (Matt 3:8-10; Matt 12:33; Matt 21:43; John 15:1-8; Rom 7:4-6; Gal 5:19-23). What does this teach us about the connection between fruit & the Christian faith?
- In our modern society, how do we recognize false prophets by their fruit? How does the Sermon on the Mount help us be discerning about false prophets?
- **How** are you bearing good fruit in keeping with repentance (see Matt 3:8)? Reflect on this question & spend time praying together.