

# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Week 17

**Read Matthew 7:15-23**

**Note:** This passage gives a sincere warning about the importance of the kind of leaders we follow. Remember He is talking about people who claim to be (and appear to be) leaders *within* the church, not the secular world. How do we recognize and avoid the “pastor” who will devour the sheep in their flock? Matthew quotes the same tree/fruit analogy from Jesus in **Matthew 12:33-37** if you want more context.

**Retell:** Summarize in your own words what Jesus is saying about the kind of leaders we should avoid.

**Discuss:** What is NOT good fruit according to this passage?

What IS good fruit according to this passage? See also Galatians 5:22-23 as an example of what the New Testament means by fruit.

How do you typically evaluate a pastor or someone in ministry? What qualities are most appealing to you (i.e. intelligence, confidence, communication skills...)?

What leaders should you spend less time listening to? What leaders should you spend more time with?

**Application:** Take a moment to pray and listen. How might you take a practical step today to alter who is having an influence on your spiritual walk? Write it down and share it with the group.

I WILL:

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