



## **The Sermon on the Mount**

### **Matthew 7: 15-21**

### **The Transcendental Interferer**

#### **Matthew 7 NIV**

##### **True and False Prophets**

15 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

##### **True and False Disciples**

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

#### **Matthew 7 NET**

##### **A Tree and Its Fruit**

15 “Watch out for false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are voracious wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruit. Grapes are not gathered[y] from thorns or figs from thistles, are they? 17 In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree is not able to bear bad fruit, nor a bad tree to bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 So then, you will recognize them by their fruit.

##### **Judgment of Pretenders**

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven—only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. 22 On that day, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many powerful deeds in your name?’ 23 Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. Go away from me, you lawbreakers!’

## What is a prophet? What is a disciple? And what is true/truth?

### What is a Prophet?

<https://www.uncommonsg.org/post/sermon-on-the-mount-series-true-and-false-prophets-disciples>

The English word “prophet” comes from the Greek word “prophetes” which means “one who speaks forth” or “advocate.” Most people when defining the role of a prophet would say that it primarily is predicting the future. While this is certainly a role that most Biblical prophets play, it is not all that the role encompasses. In the most general sense, a prophet is a person that speaks God’s truth to others.

When Jesus is addressing true and false prophets, He is addressing anyone who is in a role that involves speaking the truth of God to other people.

<https://www.preparingforeternity.com/trueprophet.htm>

The best way to identify a true prophet is to use the Word of God alone to do so: If a prophet is sent by the God who wrote the Bible, then common sense would be to identify a true prophet by God’s Word.

A true Prophet NEVER gives his private interpretation. He only shares what the Lord reveals. Scripture defines Scripture, not man.

A true Prophet only prophecies in the name of the Lord. He only seeks to glorify the Lord. He will never seek glory to himself. NEVER!

### What is a Disciple?

Someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus. Matthew 4:19: *Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men.*

A call to discipleship in three parts:

“*Come, follow me*”: Christ’s call to all people to recognize his voice and come to him

“*I will make you*”: Those who follow Jesus are changed and conformed into the image of Christ

“*Fishers of men*”: A metaphor for seeking people who will also follow Jesus, and sharing Jesus with others.

### Questions

Can you express what it means to know and to be known by Jesus in your own, personal words?

How do you know that you know Jesus?

## **What is true/truth?**

What is truth? is not an unfamiliar question (John 18:38). How does Jesus use the words true/truth and how do others apply it to Him?

*John 14:6: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

*John 1:14: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*John 1:17: For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

*John 17:17: Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*

## **Truth is part of the armor of God**

Ephesians 6:14: Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place...

## **Truth is also part of the famous 1 Corinthians "Love" chapter**

1 Corinthians 13:6: Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

## **Questions**

Who do you trust to "speak the truth of God" to you?

How do you affirm/confirm that what they say to you is true?

## **C.S. Lewis on Authentic Discipleship**

Authentic (true) discipleship was more than important topic for writer C. S. Lewis – it was an essential aspect of his Christian life. [C.S. Lewis on Authentic Discipleship](#) illustrates "the enormous significance of what Lewis has to teach us about Christian discipleship"

Speaking of his pre-Christian understanding of the faith in his book *Surprised by Joy*, Lewis stated that "The horror of the Christian universe was that it had no door marked Exit." The Christian way, in others words, was made horrifying precisely because of its demands.

*"No word in my vocabulary," he went on to say, "expressed deeper hatred than the word Interference. But Christianity placed at the center what then seemed to me a Transcendental Interferer."*

What Lewis already knew was that at the center of what it meant to be a Christian was the call to complete surrender and obedience to Christ. But Lewis wasn't finished yet. So great was his aversion to this Christian doctrine that he was compelled to further describe what becoming a Christian would mean for him personally.

*"If its picture was true then no sort of 'treaty with reality' could ever be possible. There was no region even in the innermost depth of one's soul (nay, there least of all) which one could surround with a barbed wire fence and guard with a notice No Admittance. And that was what I wanted; some area, however small, of which I could say to all other beings, 'This is my business and mine only.'"*

It is no surprise that Lewis titled the chapter in which he tells of his conversion Checkmate. It is also no surprise that the epigraph that heads the chapter reads, *"The one principle of hell is: 'I am my own.'"*

For what becomes clear as he nears the point of believing is that the intellectual difficulties had all been addressed; there were no longer any rational barriers to belief. What remained was the barrier of the will. All his attempts to find Christianity "wanting" had failed. He was now left with the "horrible" prospect of willingly allowing himself to become someone else's; and that someone else was the one who had both the power and the right to hold him accountable to complete and absolute submission—the Transcendental Interferer.

### **Question**

Where have you struggled to welcome God's "interference" in "your" life and what lessons have you learned from these struggles?

*Prepared by Chris Slawecki*