The Real Thing

Matthew 7:21-23

The Real Thing

- Counterfeits abound.
  - Money, jewelry, sunglasses, shoes, etc.
  - Sports fans
- Have you ever purchased or wanted a fake item?

- Can there be fake disciples?

The Real Thing

- **Jesus warns right before this passage that fake disciples will find their way into God's people.**
- **One of the ways to identify a fake disciple is by looking at the fruit of their life?**
- **Is our fruit reflective of Jesus or look just like everyone else?**
- **The fruit of what we truly believe and love will always become known.**

The Real Thing

- **Say and using all the right words, titles of Jesus, the Bible, and even Jesus' name doesn't guarantee someone is a disciple.**
- **Don't be fooled or distracted by the words a person uses.**
- **Be on your guard!**

The Real Thing

- **Even doing good and spiritual deeds do not guarantee someone is a disciple.**

- **Don’t let someone’s words and deeds distract you from their actual message and fruit in their life.**
- **Test one’s words against the whole Scripture.**
- **Examine one’s whole life for the type of fruit they bear.**
- **Be on guard.**

The Real Thing

- A disciple is:
  - Someone who does the will of God.
  - Someone known by Jesus.
  - Who is on the journey of knowing Jesus more and more.
- As we get to know Jesus, God reveals His will to us.

- Faith is the beginning of a relationship with Jesus.

The Real Thing

- **Relationships matter because it is through knowing a person more and more that we discover what is in their hearts, what they desire and their will.**

- **Without knowing someone, being in a growing relationship with them, it is easy to misinterpret one's actions and words.**

The Real Thing

- Our confession of Jesus as Lord is meant to restore and begin our relationship with Jesus.
- The danger is we move straight from confessing Jesus as Lord to obeying the law and miss or skip our relationship with Jesus.
- Is your faith centered around knowing Jesus more or obeying the laws?
- Knowing Jesus leads to obedience.
- Obedience doesn’t always lead to Jesus or doing His will.

The Real Thing

- **Sometimes using the right words and doing spiritual good deeds can be a way we get around actually having to know Jesus and surrender our whole lives to Him.**

- **Without knowing the will of God our words and deeds can easily become a performance we do for others or to put ourselves on a stage for others to see and admire.**

The Real Thing

- God's Word is meant to point to and reveal the heart and will of God.
- God wills
  - That all would come to faith.
  - That those who confess would be sanctified.
  - That we would offer praise and thanksgiving
  - That we would make disciples of others

The Real Thing

- **God's will is that all people would move from**

Unbelief to belief in Jesus to belief in Jesus in all things.

Are you known by Jesus?

Do you know Jesus?

Do you know God's will?

Do your words and deeds flow out of what you know to be true of Jesus?

Matthew 7:15-23

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.

Matthew 7:15-23

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.

Matthew 7:15-23

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!’

Psalm 143:8-10

8 Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
for to you I entrust my life.
9 Rescue me from my enemies, LORD,
for I hide myself in you.
10 Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God;
may your good Spirit
lead me on level ground.