



## Part 4: *False Prophets & False Believers*

Jesus does not set before his followers a string of easy ethical rules, as much as a set of values and ideals which is entirely distinctive from the way of the world. He summons us to renounce the prevailing secular culture in favour of the Christian counter-culture.

~ John R.W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*

The statements of the Sermon on the Mount are not general moral principles or advice of a religious genius or guru that can stand on their own. Both their meaning and their validity are derived from the story of what God has done in Jesus.

~ E. Eugene Boring, *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

Jesus claims that by our fruits we will be known, making impossible any attempt to separate the content of the Christian belief from how we must live.

~ Stanley Hauerwas, *Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible*

The trouble with false prophets is of course that they *seem* very nice, very reasonable, very trustworthy. No wolf is going to let you see his claws and teeth if he can dress himself up as a harmless sheep – and that's what they will do.

~ N.T. Wright, *Matthew for Everyone*

The tree that continues to bear bad fruit will eventually be cut down and destroyed. Notice it does not exhort the disciples to be the lumberjacks. The judgment in view is that of God.

~ Ben Witherington III, *Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary*

I must emphasize that Jesus is not encouraging a heresy-hunting mentality here. After all, the same Jesus has only recently condemned judgmental attitudes. Yet false teachers must be identified.

~ D. A. Carson, *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount*

Jesus is more concerned with our “walk” than our “talk”. On judgment day only a person's relationship with Christ – acceptance of him as Saviour and obedience to him as Lord – will matter.

~ Linda K. Taylor, *Life Application New Testament Commentary*

It is true, of course, that no man enters the kingdom because of his obedience; but it is equally true that no man enters the kingdom who is not obedient. It is true that men are saved by God's grace through faith in Christ; but it is equally true that God's grace in a man's life inevitably results in obedience.

~ D. A. Carson, *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount*

One of the ironic similarities between heaven and hell is that no one in either place thinks they got what they deserve.

~ John Fischer, *12 Steps for the Recovering Pharisee*

You might remember that the first Christians were called “followers of the Way”. They had found the Way of Life and had given themselves over to it. They lived together, ate together, fought together, celebrated together. They were intimate allies; it was a fellowship of the heart. How wonderful it would be if we could find the same.

~ John Eldredge, *Waking the Dead*

I am the way.

~ Jesus