

Counterfeit Miracles (Matthew 7:13-25)

Experience God's Power – Part 9
Life Church St. Louis – August 14, 2016
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

2 Thessalonians 2:9 (NIV) *The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,*

Matthew 24:23-24 (NIV) *At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

1 Corinthians 12:7-9 (NIV) *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ... to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy ...*

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV) *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

1. Beware of _____ prophets

Matthew 7:15 (NIV) *"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.*

1A. Recognize the prophet's _____

Matthew 7:16-18 (NIV) *By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.*

1B. Understand the false prophet's _____

Matthew 7:19-20 (NIV) *Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.*

2. Beware of self-_____

Matthew 7:21 (NIV) *"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.*

2A. Don't trust in _____

Matthew 7:22 (NIV) *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?'*

2B. Salvation is based on _____

Matthew 7:23 (NIV) *Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*

3. Beware of self-_____

3A. Don't just _____ God's Word

Matthew 7:26-27 (NIV) *But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."*

3B. Put God's Word into _____

Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV) *"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

Action Plan for This Week

- Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading, prayer & writing.
 - Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun
- Study Matthew to better understand how to discern false prophets.
- Invite your friends, relatives, workmates & neighbors to our Sunday service.

Counterfeit Miracles (Matthew 7:13-25) Study Guide

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Intro. What is the difference between a true miracle and a counterfeit miracle (2 Thessalonians 2:9)?

In what ways can false prophets deceive people with great signs and wonders (Matthew 24:23-24)?

How does 1 Corinthians 12:7-9 show that miracles will continue until Jesus returns (also see Acts 2:17-18)?

What are the differences between the two roads that Jesus describes in Matthew 7:13-14?

Do you think that those on the broad road realize what road they are on? Why or why not?

1A. What is the motivation of false prophets (Matthew 7:15)? Where do false prophets come from (Acts 20:28-31)?

1B. Describe the difference between the fruit of a true prophet and a false prophet (Matthew 7:16-18)?

1C. What is the eternal fate of false prophets (Matthew 7:19-20)?

1D. Why is it so important to be able to discern false prophets?

2A. How can it be that a person can call Jesus Lord but not enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21)?

2B. Why did the people in Matthew 7:22 think that they should go to heaven? What was wrong with their thinking?

2C. Why did Jesus call these people evildoers (Matthew 7:23)?

2D. Why would it be dangerous to follow a person like these who did miracles but had no relationship with Jesus?

2E. How can a person who is not saved do miracles in Jesus' name (Numbers 22-24, Romans 11:29, Philippians 1:15-18)?

3A. How is a person who hears God's Word but does not put it into practice deceived (Matthew 7:26-27, James 1:22-25)?

3B. What does it mean to put God's Word into practice (Matthew 7:24-25)?

3C. In what way does putting God's Word into practice result in building upon a rock foundation?

3D. Look at all four examples that Jesus taught in Matthew 7:13-25 and describe the common characteristics of the believer and the common characteristics of the unbeliever?

3E. Is there anyone in your life that you need to stop following or listening to?