

**Cultivating
a Christian Character**

***Studies in
The Sermon on the Mount
Matthew chapters 5-7***

***Being the Real Deal
Matthew 7.15-23***

Beware of fakes!

- false leaders and false believers

1. Wolves in Sheep's Clothing, v15

- ***Their Goal – a personal following Acts 20.30***
beware of empire builders, the over-possessive
The Church is God's, not ours
- he bought it with his Son's blood v28

1. Wolves in sheep's clothing, v15

➤ *Their Method – distorting the truth Acts 20.30*

- ❑ *deliberately selective, creating imbalance
too rosy a picture of discipleship*
- ❑ *subtle substitutions Jer 23.1-32
human insights in place of divine revelation*
- ❑ *misrepresentation of people or facts
spinning to gain popularity, control*

Christians must always be truthful Eph 4.25

➤ *Their Impact – destructive Acts 20.29 the tearing apart of God's flock John 10.12*

2. Good and Bad Trees, vs16-20

- ***Trees produce according to their type*** **Gen 1.11**
- ***The Spirit's Fruit cannot be faked***
 - ❑ ***only he can produce 'agape' love***
sacrificial, to undeserving, and persevering
John 15.13; Mat 5.43-44; 1 Cor 13.4-8
 - ❑ ***only he can produce 'joy in Jesus'***
Phil 4.4; Hab 3.17-18
 - ❑ ***only he can produce peace from prayer***
Phil 4.6-7; Rom 8.28
- ***Our sinful nature's fruit is rotten*** **Gal 5.17-21**
those who produce it will be destroyed **v19**
we all need a new heart **Ezek 36.26-27**

3. Boastful Words or Obedient Actions, v21-23

- ***Words are never enough v21***
 - ❑ ***obedience is what counts***
John 6.28-29; Luke 6.46
- ***Works of service are never enough v22***
 - ❑ ***no matter how spectacular***
Satan can perform miracles to deceive
Mat 24.24
- ***Knowledge is never enough v23***
 - ❑ ***not even a knowledge of Jesus***
He must know us as our Lord and Saviour
1 John 5.21