

DECEPTION – PART 1 (False Teachers)

Matthew 7:15-20

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1. **7:15** False teachers find ears willing to listen mostly among those who are discontent with God's ways (Isaiah 30:9–10).
2. **7:15** The most dangerous characteristic of false teachers is that they claim to speak on God's behalf (Jeremiah 14:14).
3. **7:15** When an enemy is seen for what he is, we are on the alert and are prepared for the assault. When an enemy poses as a friend, our defenses drop.
4. Scripture speaks of three kinds of deceitful teachers:
 - Heretics—openly reject God's Word and teach the opposite of God's truth
 - Apostates—once followed the truth, but have turned away and try to lead others away
 - False teachers (deceivers)—give the appearance of established truth
5. **7:16** There is no need to be deceived; there is always evidence.
6. **7:16** Christians can be taken in by false teachers when they are lazy and careless about the Word of God.
7. **7:16** A maturing believer who has discernment will be able to spot the false teacher (Hebrews 5:13-14).
8. **7:16** The Bible shows three specific evidences of false teachers:
 - Fruit of Doctrine**
 - They speak from delusion, not by God's direction (Jeremiah 23:16).
 - Their teaching does not stand up under scrutiny of Scripture's light (Isaiah 8:20).
 - They tell people what they want to hear (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

