

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT
Mt. 7:15-20

Mt. 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Review

I. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BLESSINGS, 5:1-16

II. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BELIEFS, 5:17-20

III. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BIBLE, 5:21-48

IV. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BURDENS, 6:1-34

V. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BEHAVIOR, 7:1-29

A. The Fool Exhibited, 7:1-5

B. The Father Extolled, 7:6-12

C. The Future Explained, 7:13-14

D. The Frauds Exposed, 7:15-23

1. Beware of False Prophets, 7:15-20

a. What False Prophets Pretend, 7:15

(1) How Deceptive They Are, 7:15a “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing...”

Heb. 2:1; 2 Pet. 1:19

(a) The Descriptive Announcement – “...false prophets...”

(b) The Directional Aggression—“...come to you...”

(c) The Deceptive Attack—“...in sheep's clothing...”

(2) How Destructive They Are, 7:15b – “...but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

b. What False Prophets Produce, 7:16-20

(1) Their Fruits, 7:16-18

(a) The Curse Emphasized, 7:16

i. Such knowledge is obtainable, Mt. 7:16, 20

ii. Such knowledge is through observation, 7:20

“...by their fruits...”

❖ “Fruits” = **the final product** that is observed and identifies the source, or “tree.”

❖ Note that the phrase “Ye shall know them by their fruits.” brackets this section (vv. 16, 20). This was obviously Jesus' main point.

Early in the “Sermon on the Mount” the Lord Jesus emphasized His concern regarding “righteousness.”

Mt. 5:20 For I say unto you, That **except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

❖ **The Lord Jesus is teaching His disciples that He expects a higher standard of spirituality to be lived by them than how the Pharisees live.**

❖ As we begin looking at the message, we would be wise to remember the consequences of such a warning to “BEWARE!”

2 Thess. 2:3 **Let no man deceive you** by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come **a falling away** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Original Word: ἀποστασία

Transliteration: apostasia

Definition: defection, revolt; **Usage:** defection, apostasy, revolt.

apostasía – properly, departure

(implying *desertion*); *apostasy* – literally, "a leaving, from a previous *standing*."

<https://biblehub.com/greek/646.htm>

Amos 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send **a famine** in the land, **not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:**

iii. Such knowledge has
opposition, Mt. 7:15

Mt. 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.





<http://ianbulloch.blogspot.com/2012/08/the-neo-nicolaitans-wolves-in-sheeps.html>
<https://elivar.com/blogs/news/139135751-fructose-a-wolf-in-sheep-s-clothing>

THIS IS MY BIBLE.
I AM WHAT
IT
SAYS **I AM**



**A FALSE PROPHET
A RAVENOUS WOLF
IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING**
-MATTHEW 7:15



Isa. 30:9 That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, **children that will not hear the law of the LORD:**

10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, **speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits:**

❖ He was warning His disciples about being misled by appearances.

Mt. 12:33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit.

❖ A false prophet can only produce bad works, as God sees them, even though his works may appear good, superficially or temporarily, to people.

Jn. 10:8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

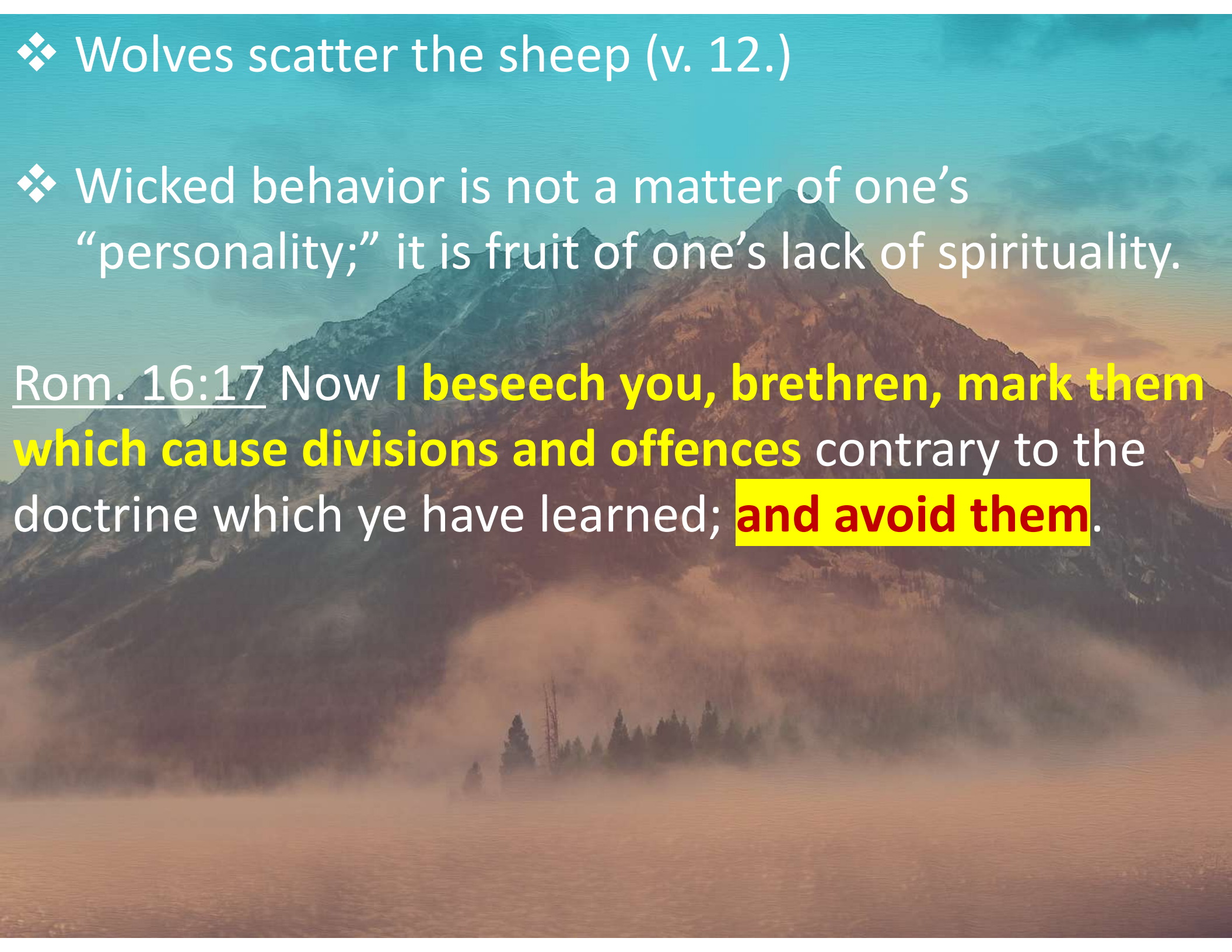
11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and **the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.**

13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.

❖ Sheep will ignore the wolves in sheep's clothing because the sheep are dumb and not astutely observant.

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- ❖ Wolves scatter the sheep (v. 12.)
 - ❖ Wicked behavior is not a matter of one's "personality;" it is fruit of one's lack of spirituality.

Rom. 16:17 Now **I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences** contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; **and avoid them.**

(b) The Contrast Emphasized, 7:17-28

i. Unexchangeable Life, 7:17

Mt. 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

- ❖ Prophets true to God's Word produce righteous conduct, but false prophets who disregard God's Word produce unrighteous conduct.
- ❖ A poisonous plant will yield poisonous fruit. It cannot produce healthful fruit.

ii. Inescapable Law, 7:18

Mt. 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

- ❖ A "good tree," such as an apple tree, bears "good," nutritious "fruit" (v. 18).
- ❖ The point Jesus was making was simply that false prophets do what is bad, and people who follow God faithfully typically do what is good.
- ❖ **The Lord Jesus is teaching His disciples that He expects a higher standard of spirituality to be lived by them than how the Pharisees live.**

(2) Their Future, 7:19-20

(a) Damnation, 7:19

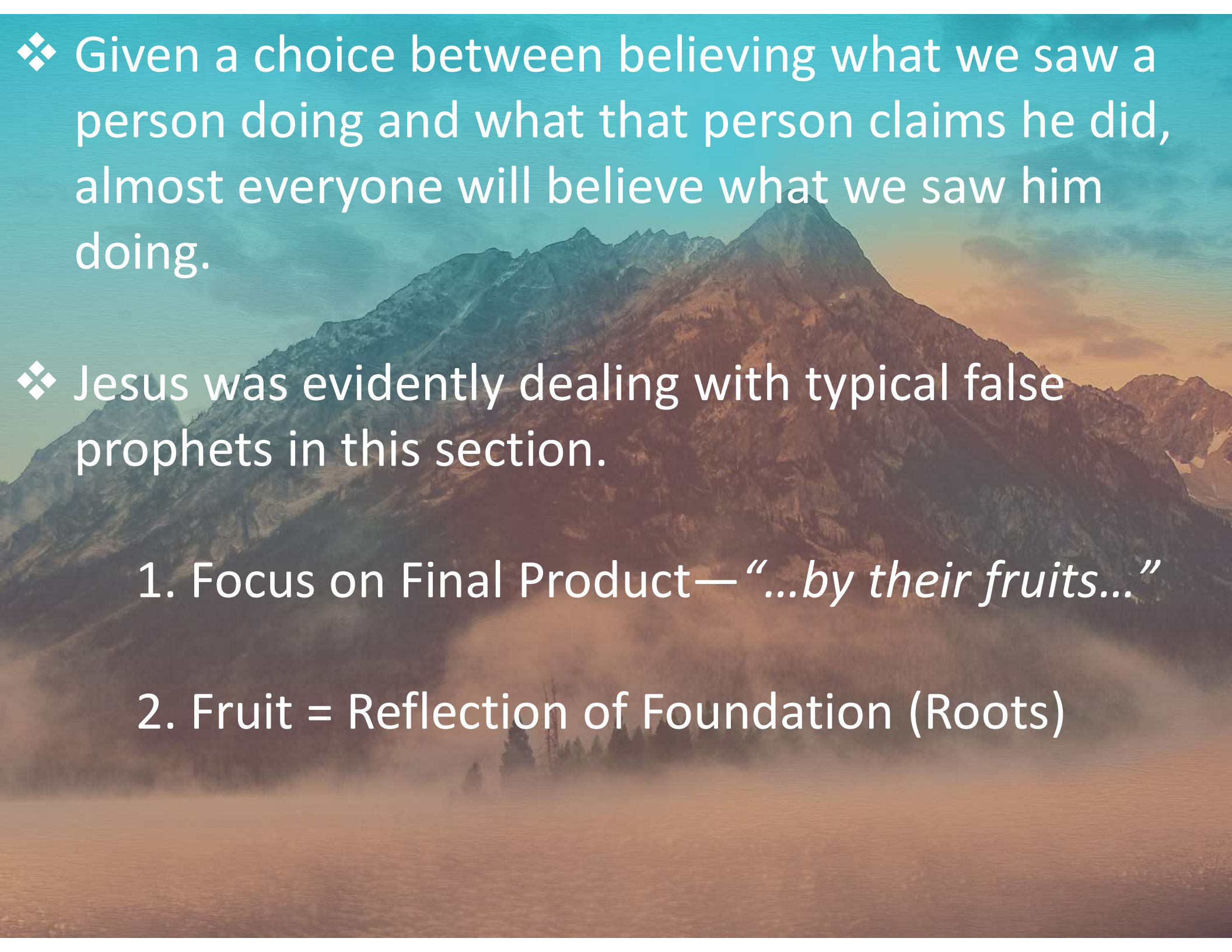
Mt. 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and **cast into the fire**.

- ❖ The end of "every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit" is "the fire."
- ❖ Likewise the false prophet who does bad works, even though they look good, suffers destructive judgment.

(b) Discrimination, 7:20

Mt. 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

- ❖ The words and works of a prophet eventually reveal his true character, just as surely as the fruit of a tree reveals its identity.
- ❖ Of these two criteria, words and works, works are the more reliable indicator of character.



❖ Given a choice between believing what we saw a person doing and what that person claims he did, almost everyone will believe what we saw him doing.

❖ Jesus was evidently dealing with typical false prophets in this section.

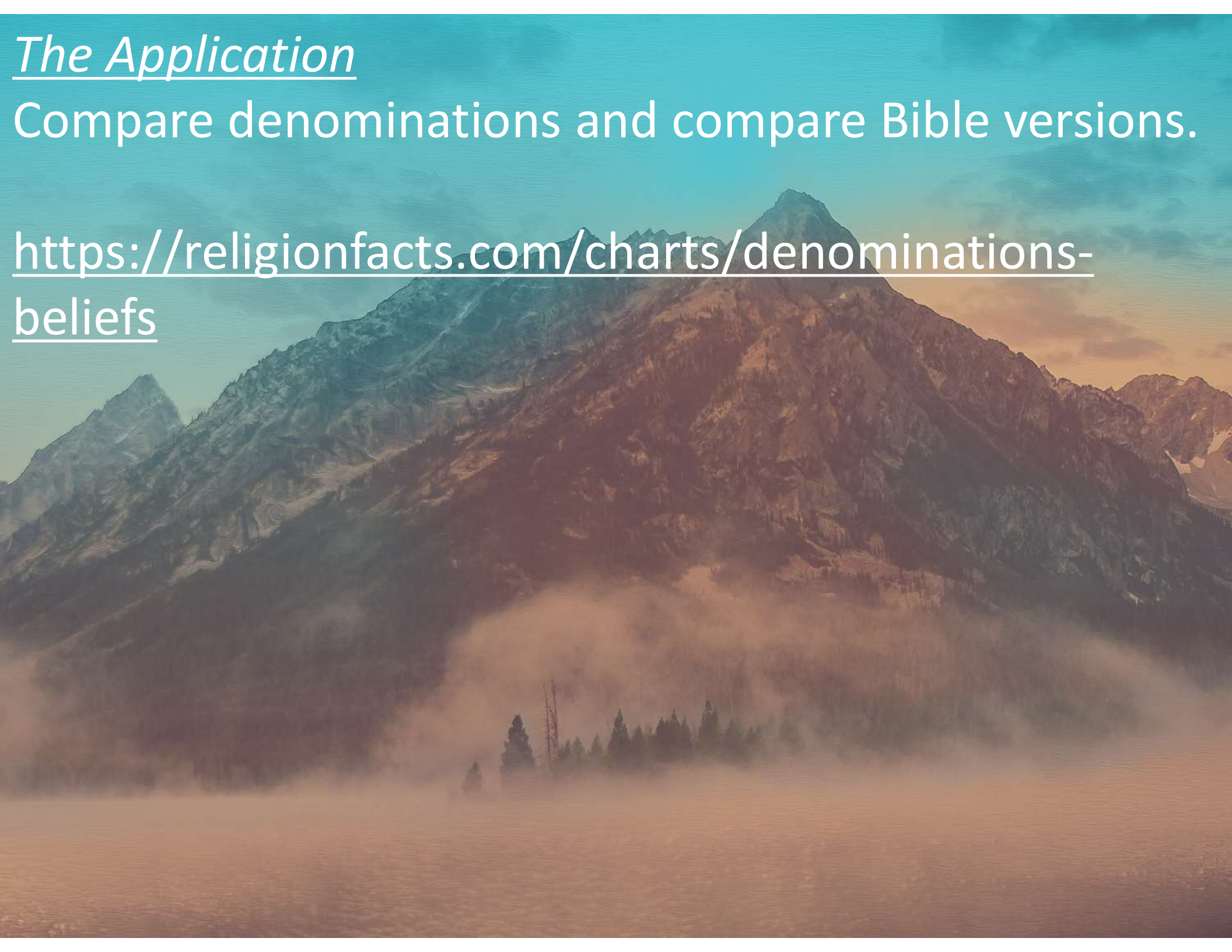
1. Focus on Final Product—“...*by their fruits...*”

2. Fruit = Reflection of Foundation (Roots)

The Application

Compare denominations and compare Bible versions.

<https://religionfacts.com/charts/denominations-beliefs>



Reference	NWT (Jehovah Witness)	NIV	NAB (Catholic)	NASB	KJV
Matthew 13:51	<p>“Did YOU get the sense of all these things?” They said to him: “Yes.”</p>	<p>“Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied.</p>	<p>“Have you understood all this?” “Yes,” they answered;</p>	<p>“Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes.”</p>	<p>Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.</p>
Mark 1:2	<p>Just as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: ...</p>	<p>It is written in Isaiah the prophet: ...* *Malachi 3:1</p>	<p>In Isaiah the prophet it is written: ...</p>	<p>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, ...</p>	<p>As it is written in the prophets, ...</p>

Conclusion

2 Cor. 11:13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness;