

MATTHEW

Heirs of the Kingdom



Matthew 7:15-23

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Matthew 7:15-23

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Outline

1. Danger

2. Diagnosis

3. Division

1. Danger: The warning Jesus gives

Matthew 7:15: "beware of false prophets..."

Acts 20:29-30

I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

1. Danger: The warning Jesus gives

Why does the Bible warn so strongly about false prophets and false teachers?

1. Danger: The warning Jesus gives

Why does the Bible warn so strongly about false prophets and false teachers?

- **Because the deception is subtle**
- **Because it leads people astray**
- **Because it comes from within the church**

1. Danger: The warning Jesus gives

Matthew 7:15: "beware of false prophets..."

2. Diagnosis: The test Jesus provides

Matthew 7:16-20: "you will recognize them by their fruits"

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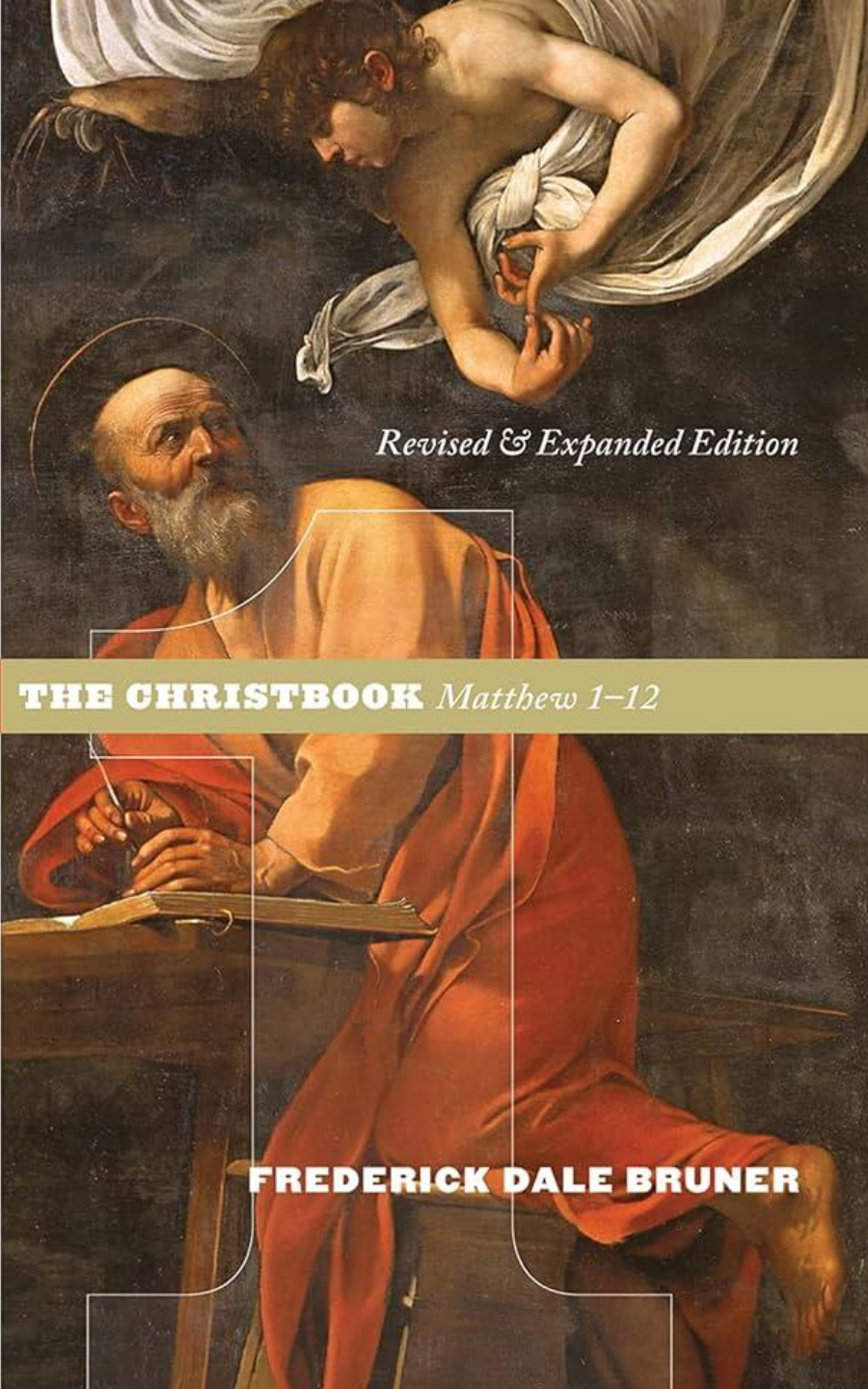
What is “good fruit”?

- The beatitudes
- The greater righteousness of the kingdom
- Allegiance to Jesus and his teaching

2. Diagnosis: The test Jesus provides

What is “good fruit”?

- The beatitudes
- The greater righteousness of the kingdom
- Allegiance to Jesus and his teaching
- The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)



1 THE CHRISTBOOK *Matthew 1-12*

FREDERICK DALE BRUNER

Bruner's Two Tests:

1. The doctrinal (or Gate) test: do they encourage faith in Christ alone, the Narrow Gate, or do they [lead others into astray]?
2. The ethical (or Road) test: do they teach or ignore, make important or unimportant, live or evade the road of Jesus' hard ...commands?

3. Division: The verdict Jesus declares

Matthew 7:21-23: "I never knew you..."

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²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

*1 NEW YORK TIMES
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At heart, he believed “the doctrines of Jesus are simple, and tend all to the happiness of man,” writing:

- 1. That there is only one God, and he all perfect.**
- 2. That there is a future state of rewards and punishments.**
- 3. That to love God with all thy heart and thy neighbor as thyself is the sum of religion.**

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**“My fundamental principle would be . . .
that we are to be saved by our good works
which are within our power, and not by our
faith which is not within our power.”**

3. Division: The verdict Jesus declares

Matthew 7:21-23: "I never knew you..."

Conclusion

“Jesus came to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.”

Conclusion

Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick . . . For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

—from Matt. 9:12-13