

# Seeking Fruits

“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them” - Matthew 7:20

## 1. The context: Israel's Coming Kingdom.

- a. We are in Matthew, let's establish the context of the passage.
  - i. What is the gospel that saves us? The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ **alone**. (Rom 4:24-25, 1 Cor 15:1-4)
  - ii. Do people in Matthew know the preaching of the cross? No. (Lk 9:6, 18:31, 24:7-11)
  - iii. Who did Jesus come to? The lost sheep of the house of Israel. (Mt 15:24)
  - iv. Is this Old Testament or New Testament or Mystery in doctrine? Old Testament. (Gal 4:4, Rom 15:8, Heb 9:16, 2 Cor 5:16)

## 2. Those who do not bear fruit will burn, what must they do?

- a. This is not to be taken lightly. If you do not have fruit, you will not be saved according to Jesus' earthly ministry.
- b. What is required of those who will enter into Israel's kingdom? Fruit.
- c. Those who have no fruit will be burned away in the fire baptism. (Mt 3:8-14)
- d. The gospel of the kingdom is clearly under way. Accompanied by healings. (Mt 4:17, 23)
- e. You must do the law and be exceeding righteous. (Mt 5:16-22, Deu 6:25)
- f. Jesus raises the bar, the law wants your heart. (Mt 5:27-30, Deu 10:16)
- g. If you wish to enter into the kingdom, you must be perfect. (Mt 5:48, Mt 6:10, 33)
- h. Forgiveness is conditional based on how you treat others. (Mt 6:14-15)
- i. You can not plan for your next meal, or take thought for your life or wellbeing. The king provides. (Mt 6:14-15)
- j. You cannot be a hypocrite. Judge righteously. (Mt 7:1-5)
  - i. Aside: who are dogs in verse 6? (Mt 15:26)
- k. You need to do the law and the prophets. Enter into the narrow gate. (Mt 7:12-14)
- l. You'll know *them* by their fruits. Who? False prophets. (Mt 7:16)
- m. Good trees will bear fruit, bad ones are cast into fire. (Mt 7:23-24)
- n. We have not yet read the “greatest commandments” which do not negate the rest. (Mt 22:36-40, Jm 2:10-12)
- o. Those who believe Jesus will do exactly what He said to do, else they are not His. They will work righteousness, they will endure to the end (of the tribulation). (Mt 10:22, 1 Jn 2:3, 4:1-3, 3:7-9, Lk 13:6-9)
- p. Bonus requirement: Sell everything that you own and rely solely on the Lord. (Lk 18:18-22)

**3. To those who wish to maintain a standing: beware**

- a. A change is coming. It was prophesied. A New and Better Testament (Is 51:6-7, Heb 8:8-13)
- b. The Lord will change the hearts of those who believe on His name (Joel 2:32, Ez 36:23-28)
- c. But beware if you've tasted that gift (ie Acts 2) and fail to do the work.  
(Jm 2:14, 24, Heb 6:4-6)
- d. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Heb 10:26-31, 37-38)
- e. A remnant of Israel will one day return at the second coming of Christ.  
(Rom 11:26-27, Rev 7:14)