

Sunday, May 29, 2022
"Meet Your King"
Summary of The Choice of Influences
Matthew 7:15-23 (focal v15)
Wayne Shelton

The Christian life is one of spiritual conflict. And no believer ever escapes from Satan without him seeking either to recapture him, or to have vengeance on Christ by hindering his spiritual progress. One of the ways in which he does this is through the influence of 'false prophets' (15). Jesus warned us about counterfeit Christian leaders marketing their wares on shiny platters decorated with tasty persuasion; delectable dishes camouflaged by logical-sounding phrases. Such counterfeits are especially dangerous to the body of Christ. These false teachers, however, are not only dangerous they are also deceptive. That is why at the end of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus warns us about these false teachers. After teaching about the broad path and the narrow path, it is as though Jesus stands at the fork in the road and says, *'Beware of the false prophets; those who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves'* (15). We must watch out for the wolves. How can we recognize these wolves and escape from their harmful influences? In the Sermon on the Mount, particularly this passage, Jesus sets before us several important principles by which we can discern false teachers from faithful teachers.