

# STUDY GUIDE

## Matthew 7:15-29

What is the best way to end a talk/presentation, based on your experience? Why?

We tend to mostly color the world in black and white: there's "them" and there's "us" and most of the time it's "us" are in the right, correct etc. and "them" are misguided, mistaken and wrong. Why do you think we tend to do this so much of the time?

Read Matthew 7:15 - 29 in three chunks: 15-20; 21-23; 24-29.  
(Have three different people read the section)

This closes the first main block of teaching in Matthew's gospel. Go back to Mt. 5:1. Who is the audience? Who is it primarily for? What difference does that make as we read and study this?

Two trees: How do we normally recognize trees, such as a Maple or Horse Chestnut? What characteristic does Jesus focus on? Why? What do you think Jesus meant by 'fruit' as it applies to us? Maybe someone has an example of what Jesus is talking about that they would like to share.

Two workers: Go around the group and share your emotional reaction to hearing this snippet of teaching?! What three "good works" does Jesus pick out in v. 22? Why do you think he does that? Does Jesus say the works are bad works? What is the key thing wrong with them? What does that mean for you as you think about the good stuff you are doing?

Two builders: How well do you think this illustration works to finish up this chunk of teaching? Can you tie this very visual image back to some of the early teaching in ch. 5 - 7? What are the common things that each builder experiences? Try to think of more than one! What is the key difference between the two builders that Jesus emphasizes? How does that help understand the previous two chunks we just looked at?

Mark Fox ended his sermon referring to two images courtesy of Rob Des Cotes. Share what you find helpful in them (if anything!) as it relates to practically "hearing and putting into practice"

As you feel comfortable share prayer concerns about how your house building is going and what weather you are encountering and what help you need to make sure you don't just become "hearers" only.

*Spend time praying together.*

*Pray together the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13*