

Matt 7:15-16 & 20 (NLT)

Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep, but are really wolves that will tear you apart. You can detect them by the way they act, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit. You don't pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles.

Yes, the way to identify a tree or a person is by the kind of fruit that is produced.

How many people do you know say they are a Christian? Now, how many of them do you wonder if they really are?

Today's devotional verse tells us how to determine if someone is a Christian or not.

I remember someone at work who found out that I was a Christian. As soon as this person did, they put up a picture of Jesus in their office. But their life style and the things they said didn't follow how a Christian should live.

Within a very short time, this person was fired for things that shouldn't be done in the work place. And I'm not talking about witnessing.

Just by observing this person, I knew it was not someone who was a fellow Christian who I could confide in, or ask anything about God's word. (Yes, even teachers have questions too.)

Any one can claim to be a Christian and a lot do, because they go to church once in a while, or their family is Christian, or maybe because they were baptized as a baby. It's also easy to claim to be a Christian around other Christians. But what about those who are not? I know sometimes it's hard but Jesus says:

† **Matt 10:32-33** *Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*

Notice Jesus doesn't say, "he who confesses me before other Christians", but before men, meaning all people, Christian or not.

† **Matt 5:47** *And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?*

So you can identify a Christian by who they claim to be Christian in front of. Who are you claiming to be a Christian to, just other Christians?

† **Romans 10:15** *And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

Don't be ashamed of introducing Jesus to others, because He's not ashamed to introduce you to the Father!

† **Matt 10:32-33** *Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*