



Beware impostors: Matthew 7.13-23

1. You take the blue pill, the story ends and you wake up believing whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill, you stay in wonderland and I show you just how deep the rabbit hole goes. Why do you think we sometimes prefer lies to truth? What "truth" do you currently find it hard to accept in your life? Discuss.

2. It's the choices that make us who we are, and we can always choose to do what's right. What has the greatest influence upon the choices you make? Your background? Your environment, eg. friends, co-workers? The surrounding culture, eg. media? Your Christian belief? How important is Christian belief compared to the other examples mentioned? What helps you to make better choices? And how do you experience the presence of God in situations that require hard choices?

3. And of course, we place ourselves on the narrow path, right? Why do we think we're better than we are? What spiritual practices can help us to see ourselves in a more truthful light?

4. He assumes that human beings are integrated wholes. If this is true, then what kind of a person are you? Do you produce good fruit or bad fruit? Since most people produce both, what is your understanding of this teaching? Discuss what Jesus means here.

5. It's not the gifts per se that are a problem, but when they replace the righteousness that Jesus calls for in his sermon, we're in trouble. Why do the more sensational gifts cause people to go astray? Are you ever tempted to admire leaders because of their charismatic gifts, rather than the quality of their lives? What can we do to avoid the dangers of being seduced by these gifts?