



**Sermon:** Beware of Counterfeit

**Text:** *Matthew 7.21-28*

**Preacher:** *Gustavo Formenti*

### **Introductory questions -**

It was not only in New Testament times that people said “Lord, Lord” and failed to match their words with deeds. Several of the prophets carried a message from the Lord warning people about merely paying him lip service.

1. Read Ezekiel 33.30-33. This is part of “the word of the Lord” which came to Ezekiel after he received word that Jerusalem had fallen to the Babylonians. Why do you think the people went to hear Ezekiel?
2. What evidence did they give that they did not really believe his message?

The Old Testament has much to say about wisdom and folly. The book of Proverbs, particularly, draws absolute contrasts between the wise person and the fool. Chapter 9 personifies Wisdom and Folly as two women who call out to people passing by.

1. Read Proverbs 9.1-18. As a general statement, what does Wisdom offer? What does Folly offer?

### **Reflection questions -**

1. Describe the various types of people Jesus talks about in these verses. How does each respond to Jesus’ teaching?
2. On the surface, what might we admire about those described in verses 21-23?
3. In spite of their admirable statements or actions, why does Jesus condemn such people?
4. Why do people so often confuse religious activity with doing the will of the Father? How do you understand the difference?
5. How were the two houses similar and different (vv.24-27)?
6. Why is it often difficult to tell the difference between genuine Christians and counterfeit ones?
7. How did the storms reveal what was previously unseen?
8. What kinds of storms have you faced in life? What did they reveal about the quality of your life?
9. What are some of the “words” of Jesus you have heard in the Sermon on the Mount (v.24) that you want to stick with you?