

Choosing the Path of True Righteousness

Recognizing a False Prophet

Matthew 7:16-20

- Jeremiah 25:11



- Jeremiah
- c. 605
- Jeremiah 25:11 This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.



Jeremiah c. 605 BC

Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...
serve the king of Babylon seventy years
Jeremiah 25:11



c. 597 BC **Hananiah**

Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ... within
two years I will bring back ... all the
exiles from Judah who went to Babylon
Jeremiah 28:3-4

- Hananiah
- c. 597 (8 years later)
- Jeremiah 28:3-4: Within two years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the Lord's house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon. 4 I will also bring back to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon, declares the Lord, for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon."
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Jeremiah c. 605 BC

Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...
serve the king of Babylon **seventy years**
Jeremiah 25:11



c. 597 BC **Hananiah**

Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ... within
two years I will bring back ... all the
exiles from Judah who went to Babylon
Jeremiah 28:3-4

- J: 70 years of exile
- H: (8 years later) within two years, bring back



Jeremiah c. 605 BC

Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...
serve the king of Babylon **seventy years**
Jeremiah 25:11



c. 597 BC **Hananiah**

Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ... within
two years I will bring back ... all the
exiles from Judah who went to Babylon
Jeremiah 28:3-4

- Both claim to be saying what Jehovah of Hosts has told them to say.

Who should I believe?	
 Jeremiah c. 605 BC	 Hananiah c. 597 BC
<u>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...</u> serve the king of Babylon seventy years Jeremiah 25:11	<u>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...</u> within two years I will bring back ... all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon Jeremiah 28:3-4

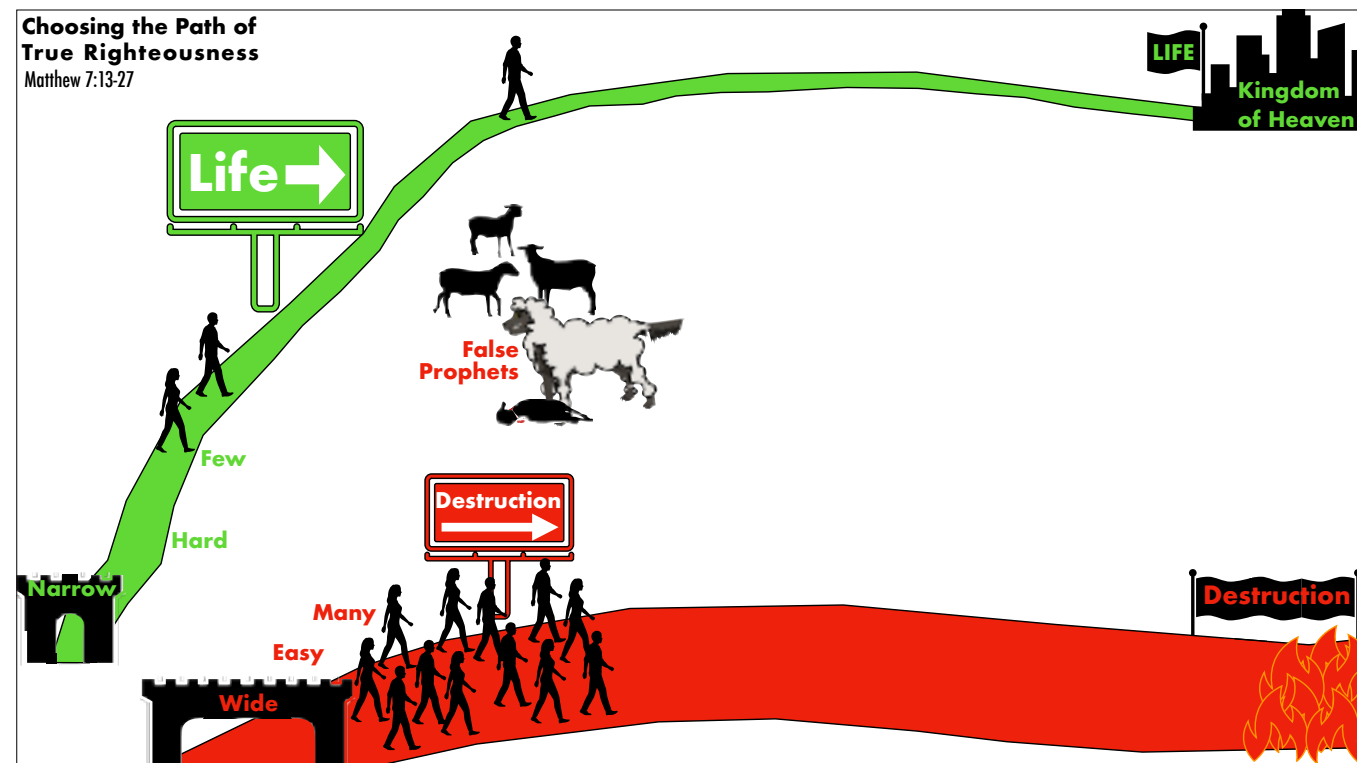
- Who should I believe?
 - I know which one I'd want to believe.

 <p>Jeremiah c. 605 BC</p>	 <p>Hananiah c. 597 BC</p>
<p>Who should I believe?</p> <p><u>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...</u> serve the king of Babylon seventy years</p>	<p><u>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...</u> within two years I will bring back ... all the ... who went to Babylon</p>
<p>God is not a God of confusion but of peace. 1 Corinthians 14:33</p>	

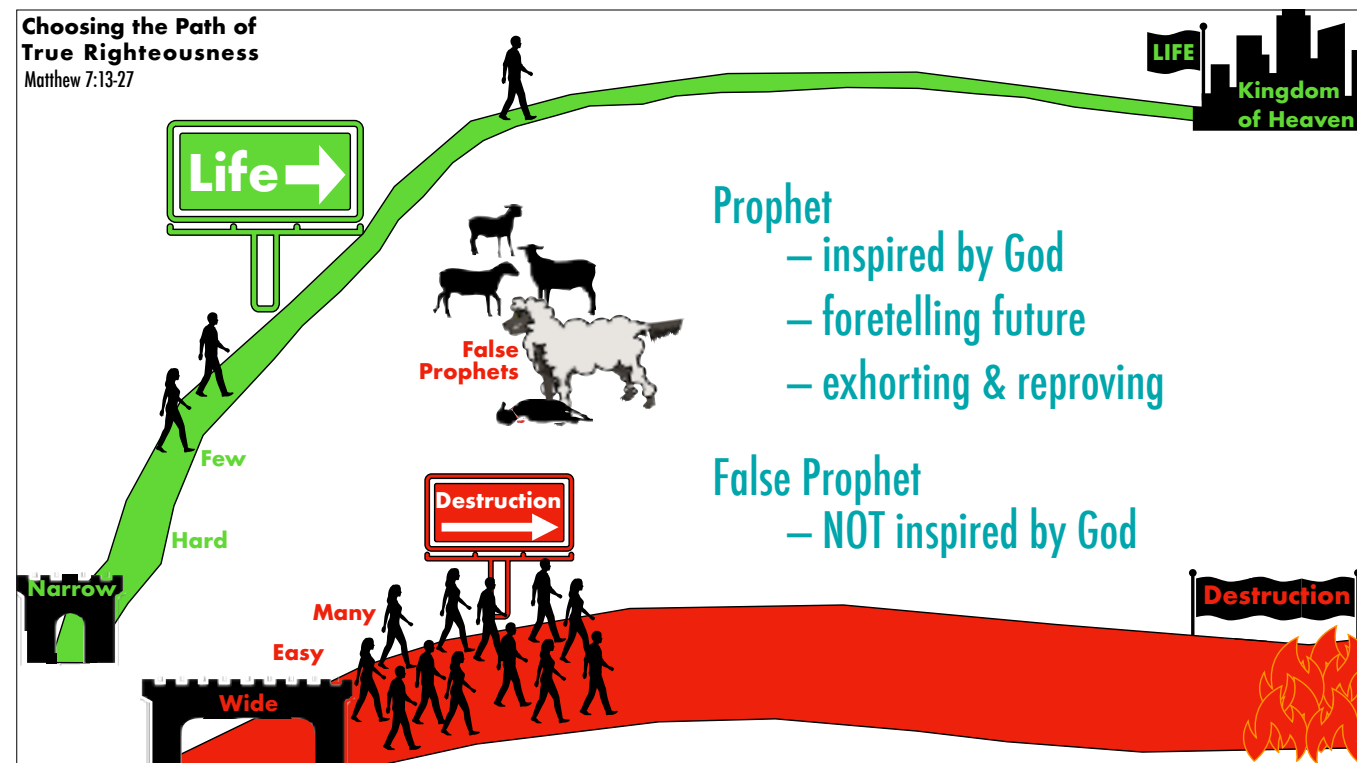
- 1 Corinthians 14:33: For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

 <p>Jeremiah c. 605 BC</p>	 <p>Hananiah c. 597 BC</p>
<p>Who should I believe?</p> <p>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ... serve the king of Babylon seventy years</p> <p>God is not a God of confusion but of peace. 1 Corinthians 14:33</p>	<p>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ... within two years I will bring back ... all the who went to Babylon Jeremiah 28:3-4</p>

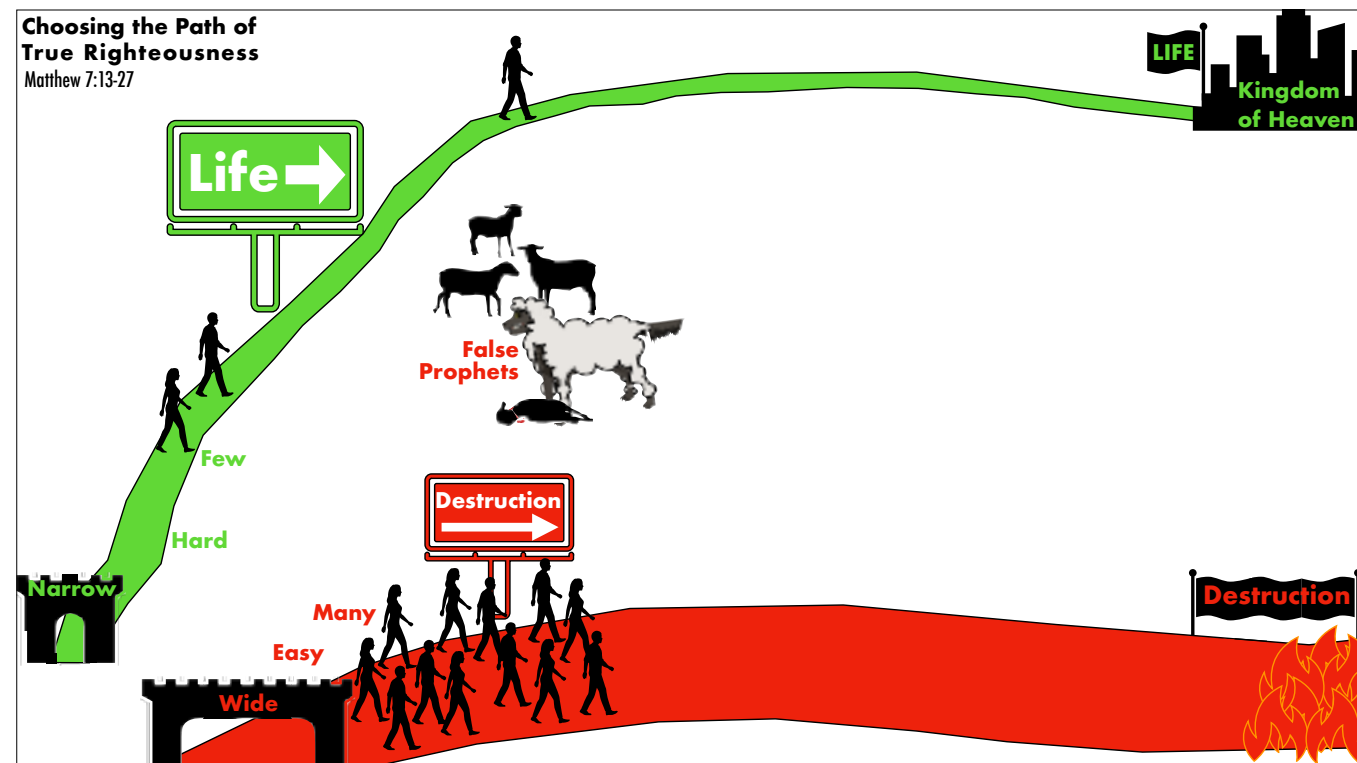
- There are false prophets and bad people out there claiming to speak for God when they are not.



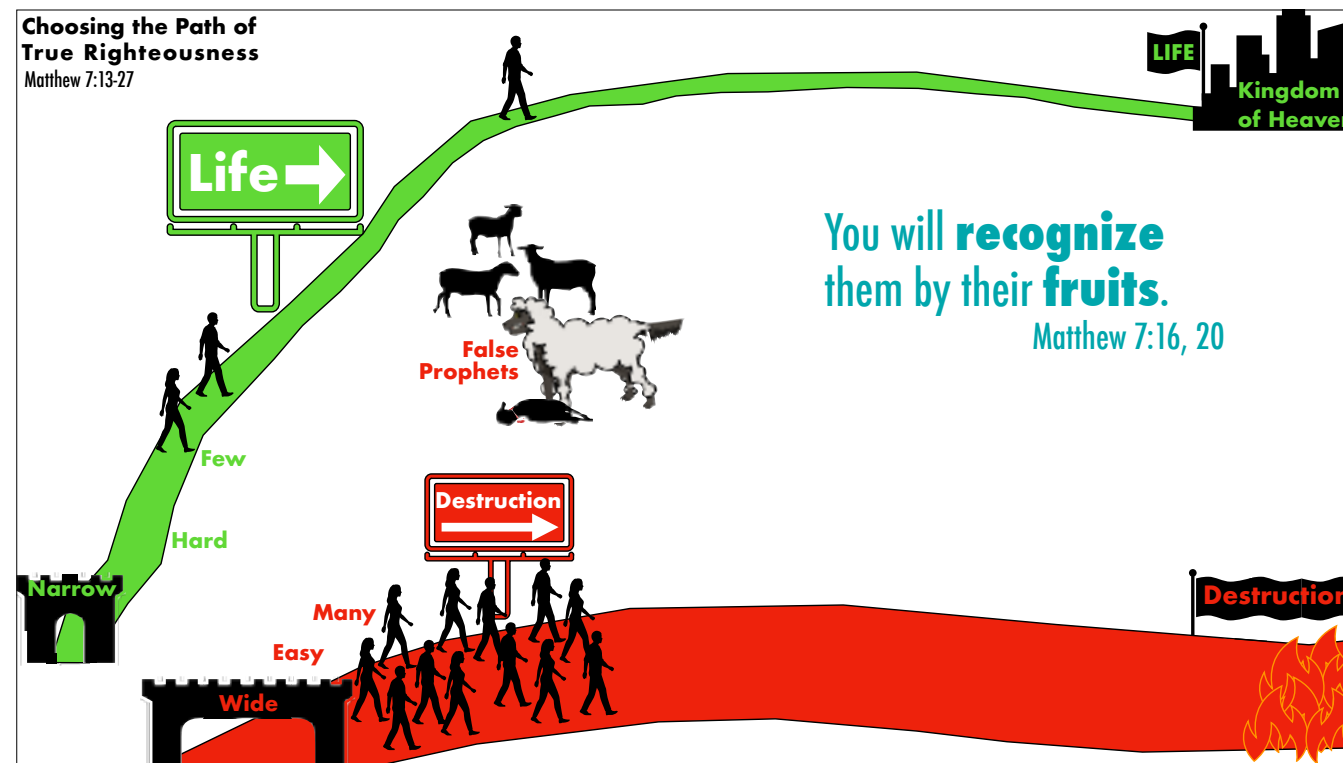
- Since we know that there are false prophets
 - And they disguise themselves
 - How do we know who to believe? who to follow?
- They are dangerous... so we must identify
- But it's not easy... because they want us to be unaware while they feed off of us.
- Seeming genuine, how do I see through their guise?



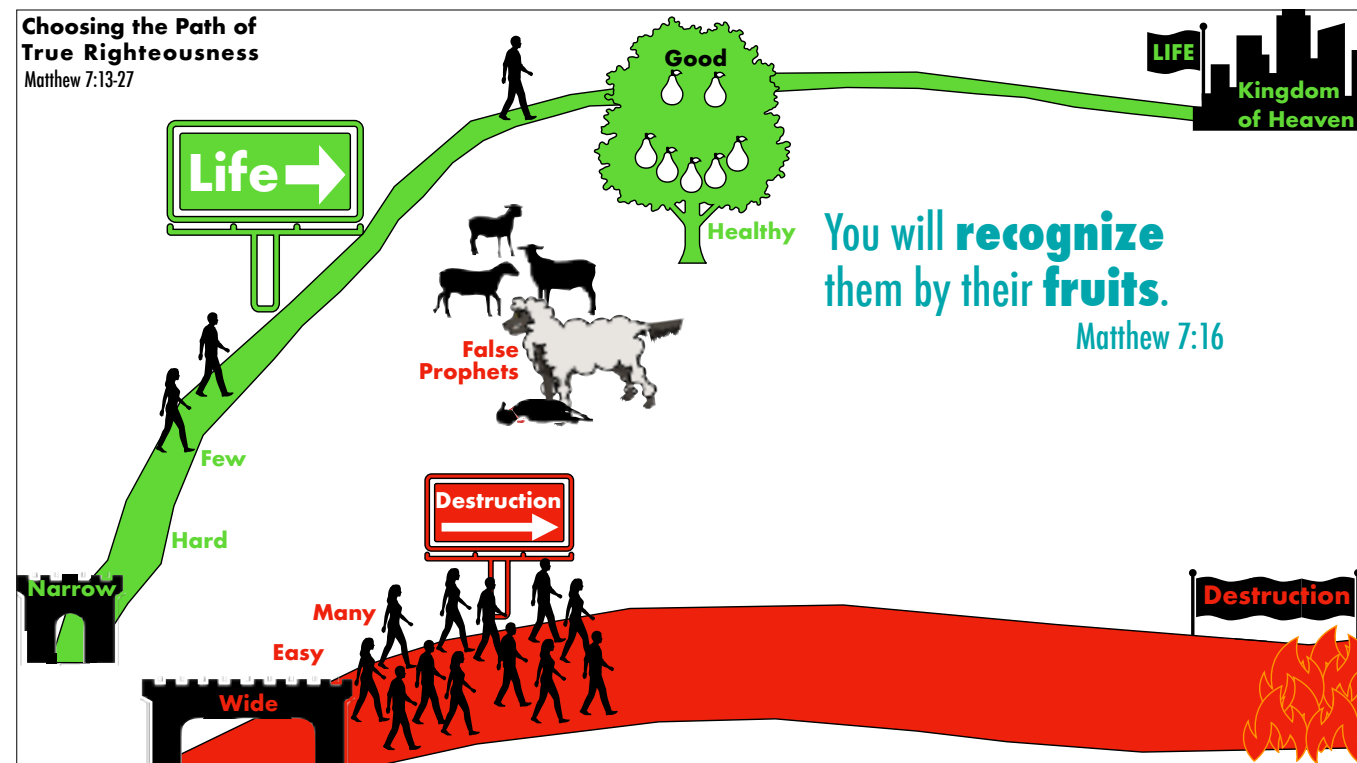
- True Prophet: inspired by God; telling future (what will happen); exhorting & reproving
- What is a false prophet?
 - Anyone who speaks a message claiming to be from God, when it is not from God.



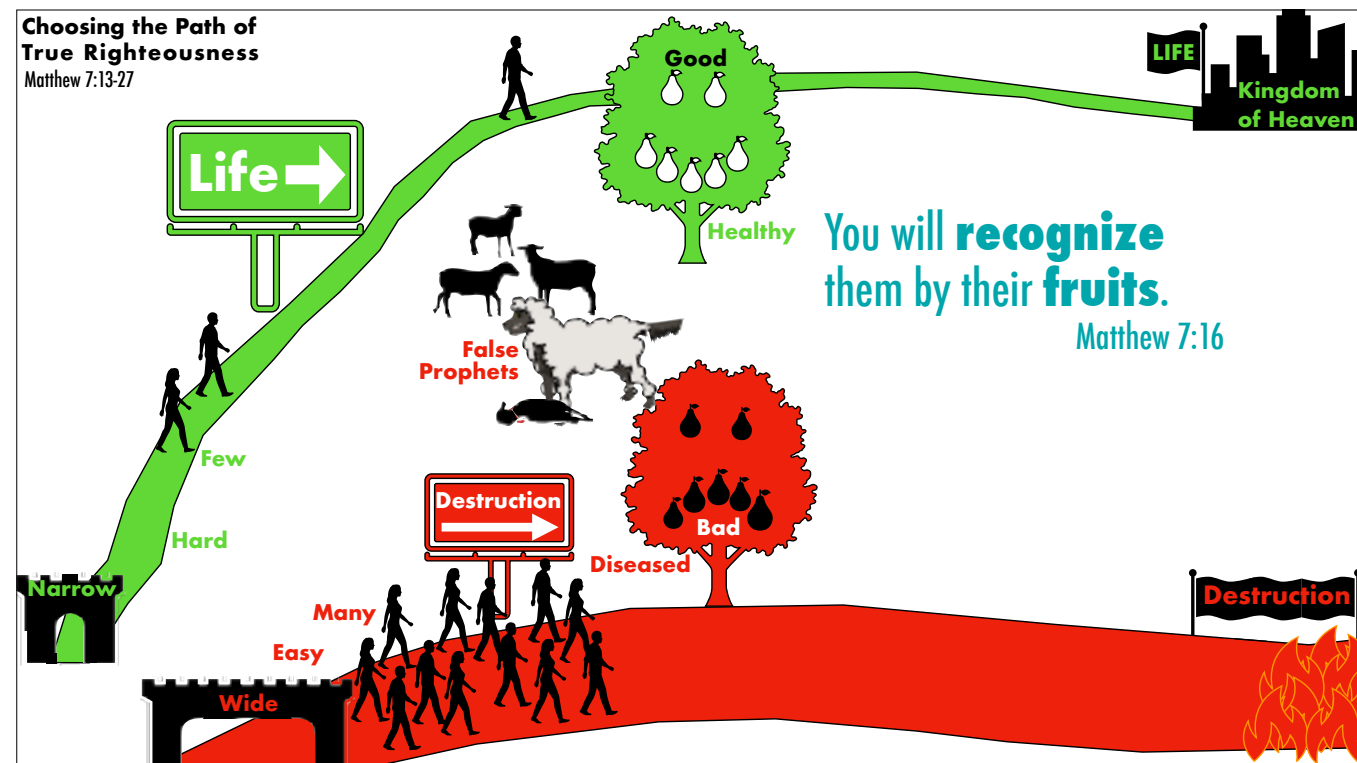
- How often do we face false prophets?
 - Now... everyday
- Media: Books, TV, Radio, Internet
- We understand the danger.



- Matthew 7:16-20 (ESV) 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.



- Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?
- 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit,
- 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit.





- but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.
- nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

 <p>Who should I believe?</p> <p>Jeremiah c. 605 BC</p>	 <p>Hananiah c. 597 BC</p>
<p><u>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...</u> serve the king of Babylon seventy years Jeremiah 25:11</p>	<p><u>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...</u> within two years I will bring back ... all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon Jeremiah 28:3-4</p>

- God provides guidance to help us know the truth, just as he did for the Israelites

 <p data-bbox="685 387 1975 576">If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams.</p> <p data-bbox="1747 566 1989 606">Deuteronomy 13:1-3</p>	
<p data-bbox="672 646 1317 765"><u>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...</u> serve the king of Babylon seventy years</p> <p data-bbox="1142 755 1317 795">Jeremiah 25:11</p>	<p data-bbox="1357 646 1989 805"><u>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...</u> within two years I will bring back ... all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon</p> <p data-bbox="1814 805 2002 844">Jeremiah 28:3-4</p>

- Deuteronomy 13:1-3 (ESV Strong's) 1 "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, '**Let us go after other gods,**' which you have not known, '**and let us serve them,**' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

	
<p>If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, '<u>Let us go after other gods,</u>' which you have not known, '<u>and let us serve them,</u>' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams.</p> <p>Deuteronomy 13:1-3</p>	
<p><u>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...</u> serve the king of Babylon seventy years Jeremiah 25:11</p>	<p><u>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...</u> within two years I will bring back ... all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon Jeremiah 28:3-4</p>

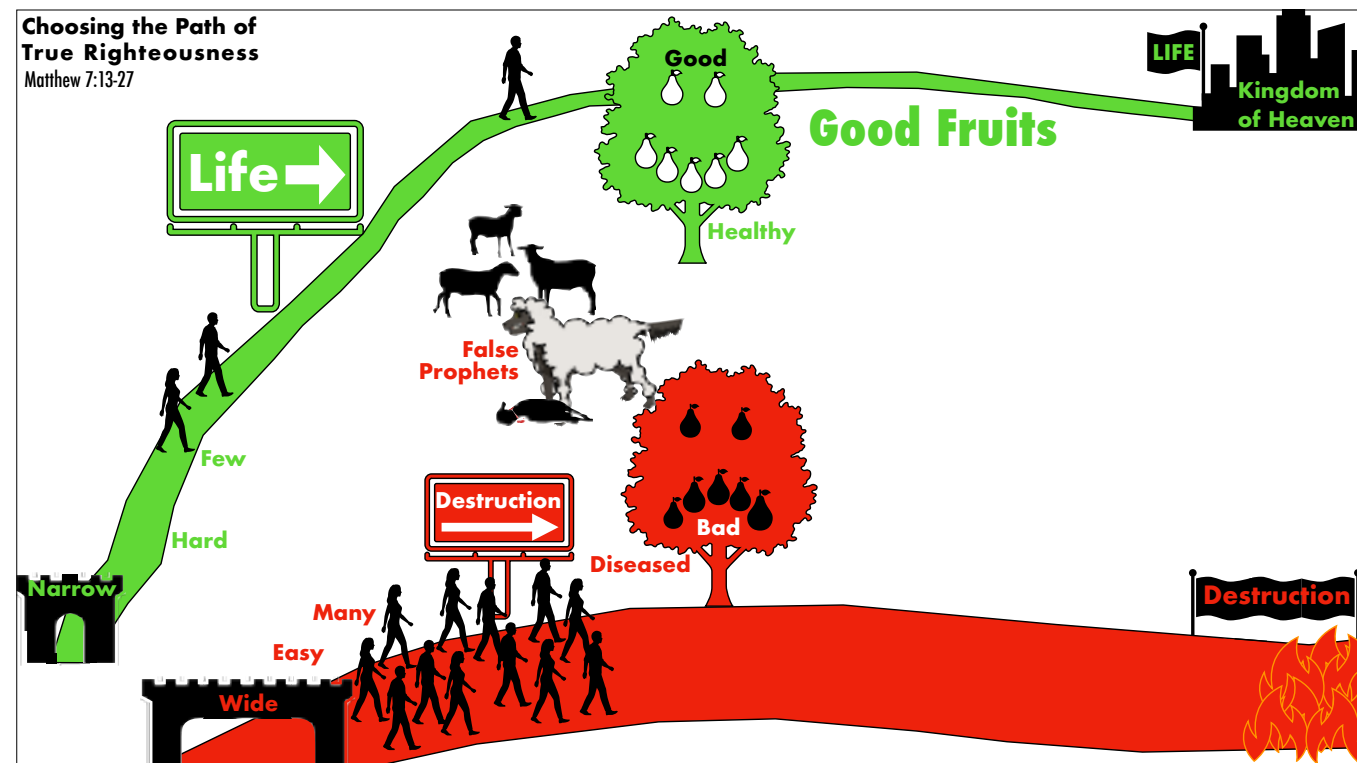
- Do they honor and exalt Jehovah, the true God or do they rebel against Him?
- Are they encouraging you to follow Jehovah or follow them? (exploit, greed)

	
<p>When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Deuteronomy 18:22</p>	
<p><u>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...</u> serve the king of Babylon seventy years <small>Jeremiah 25:11</small></p>	<p><u>Thus says Jehovah of Hosts ...</u> within two years I will bring back ... all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon <small>Jeremiah 28:3-4</small></p>

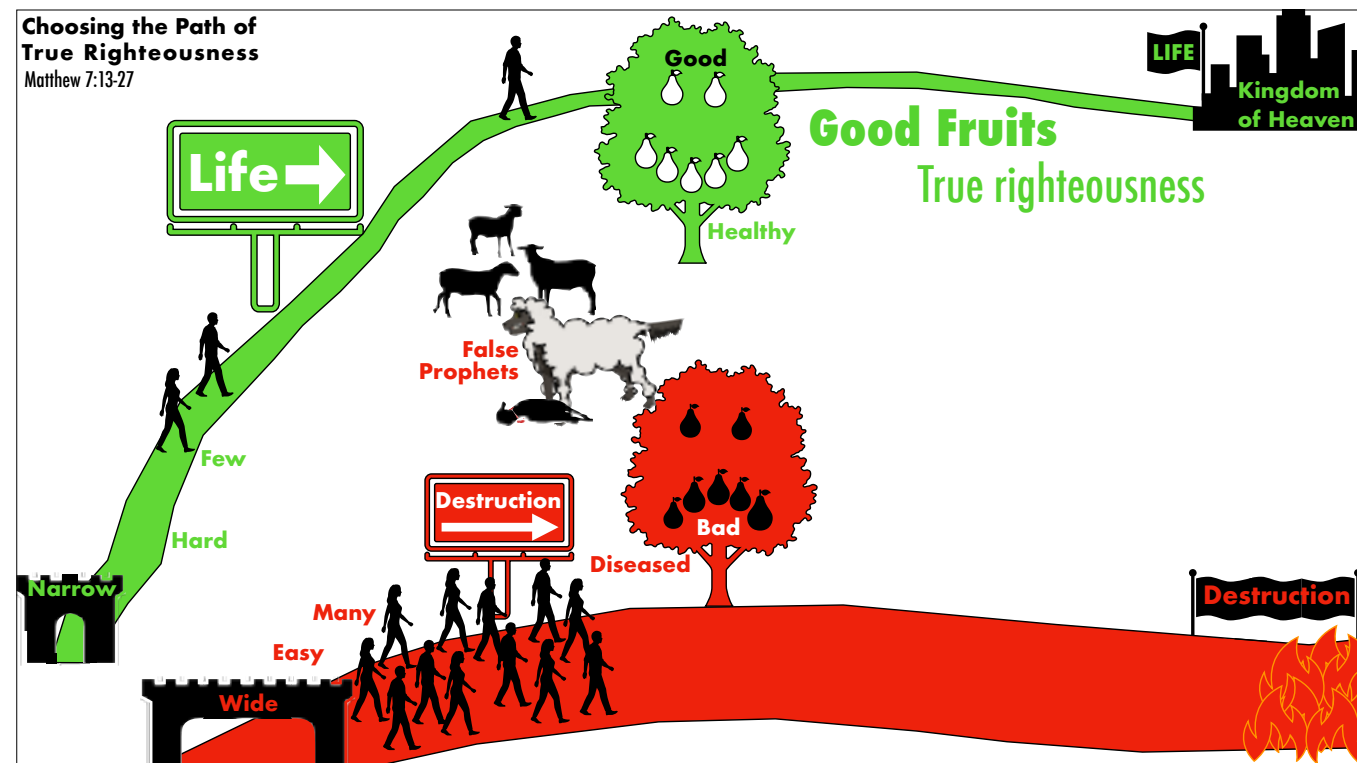
- Deuteronomy 18:20-22 (ESV) 20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.' 21 And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the Lord has not spoken?' — 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

	
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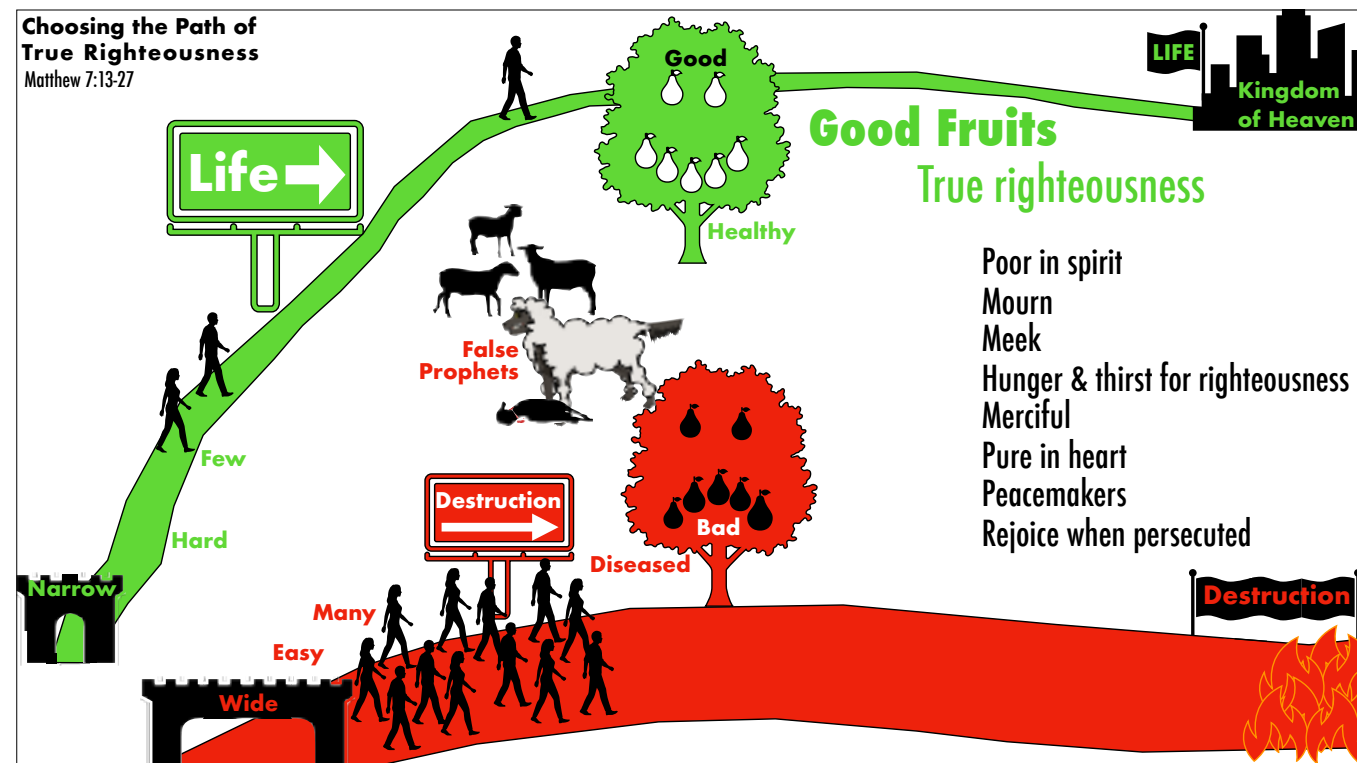
- If what they say doesn't happen, don't listen.



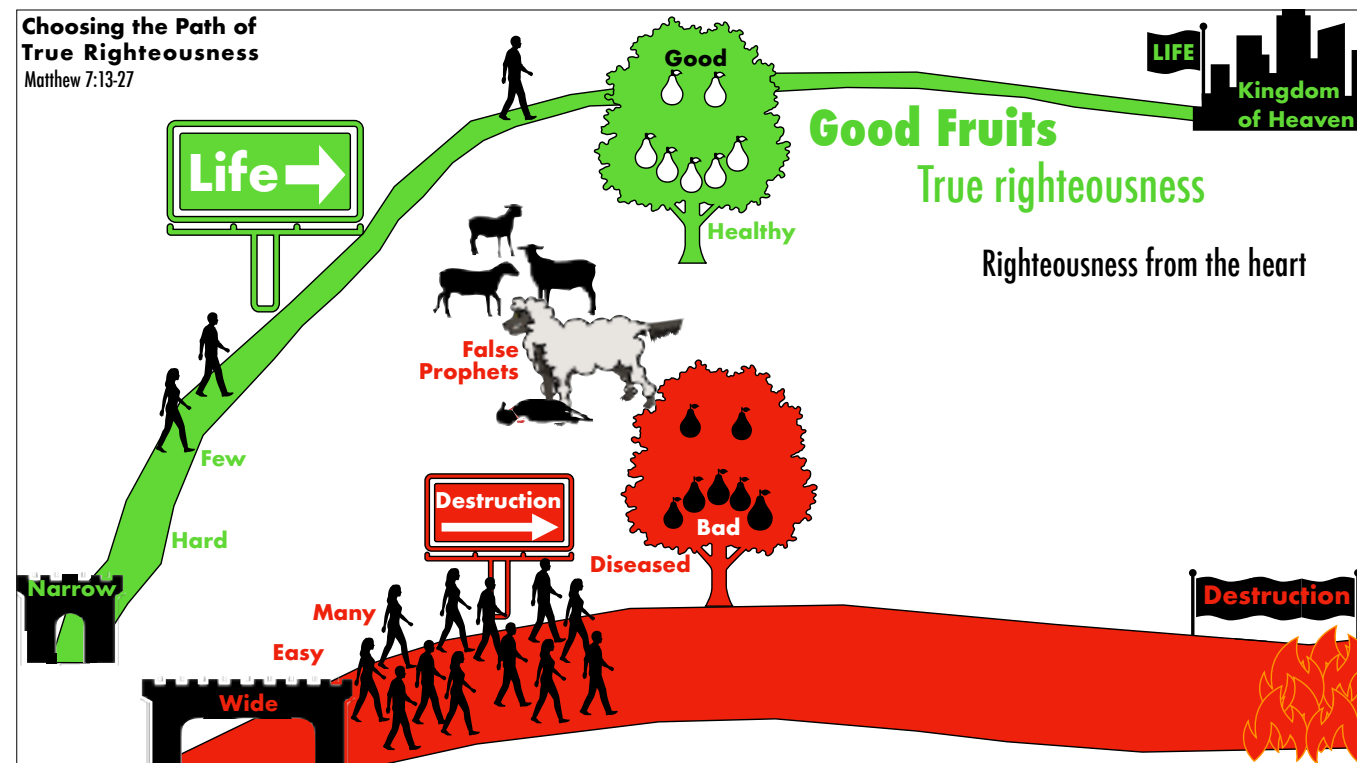
- Good Fruits



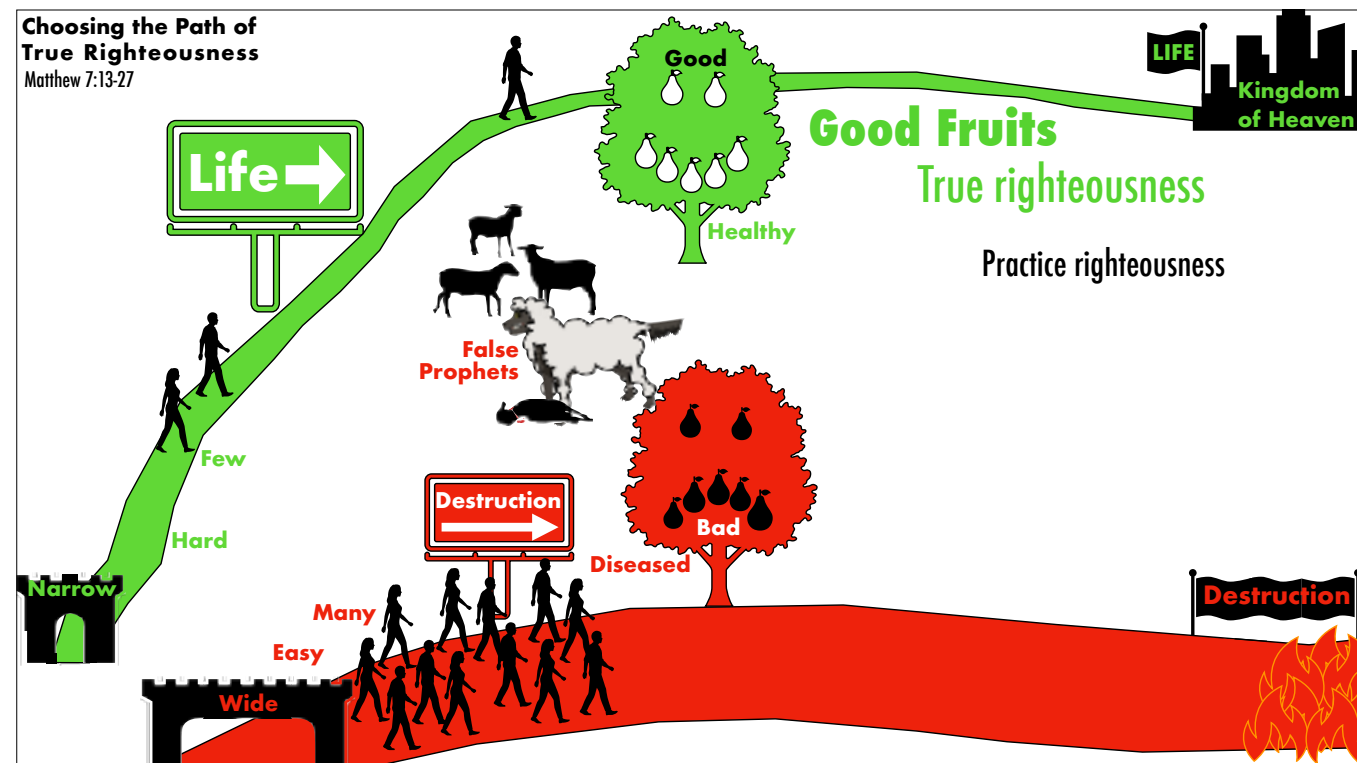
- Good Fruits
 - True righteousness... as He has been teaching in this sermon on the mount.



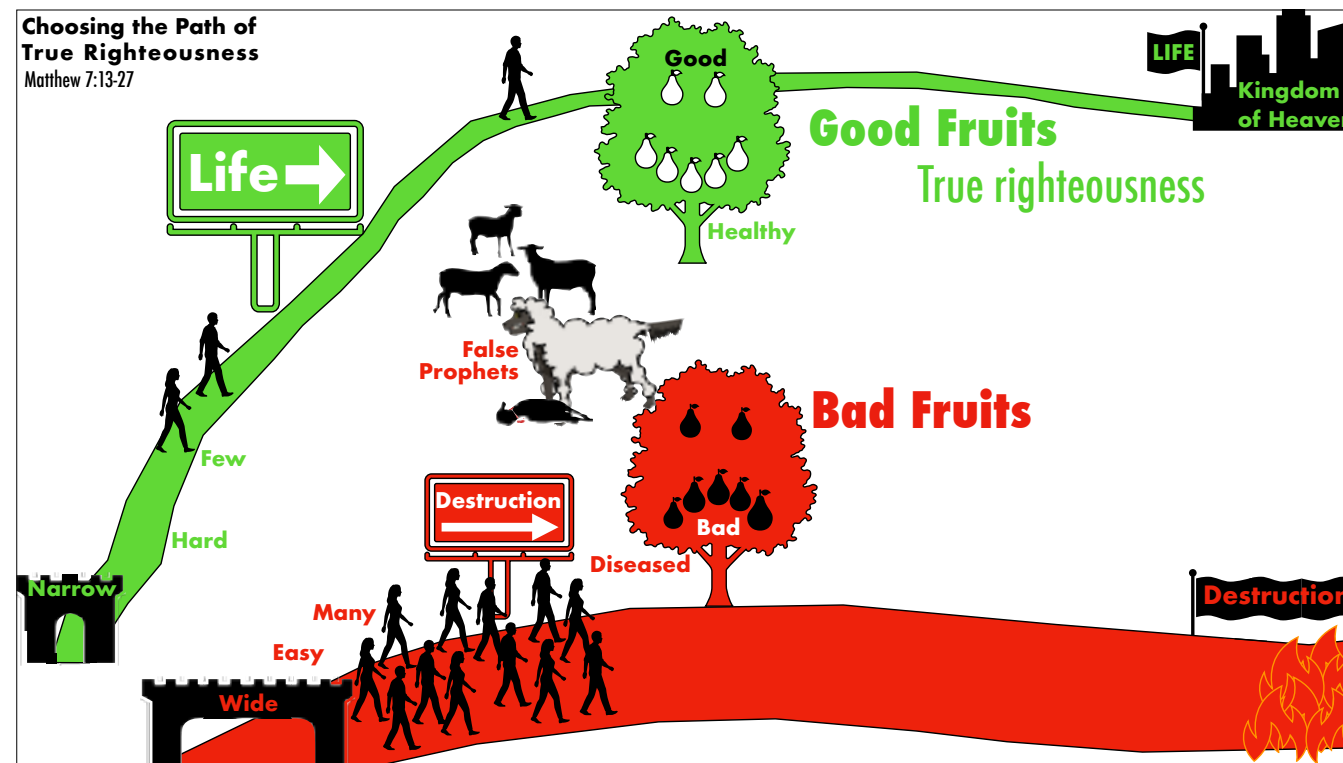
- Blessed are... the essential character of a citizen of God's kingdom
- Poor in spirit, mourn, meek, hunger and thirst for righteousness, merciful, Pure in heart, peacemakers, rejoice when persecuted
- What is the essential character of this man?
 - Can we see these things active in one's life?
 - Can I see if a man is poor in spirit? Etc.



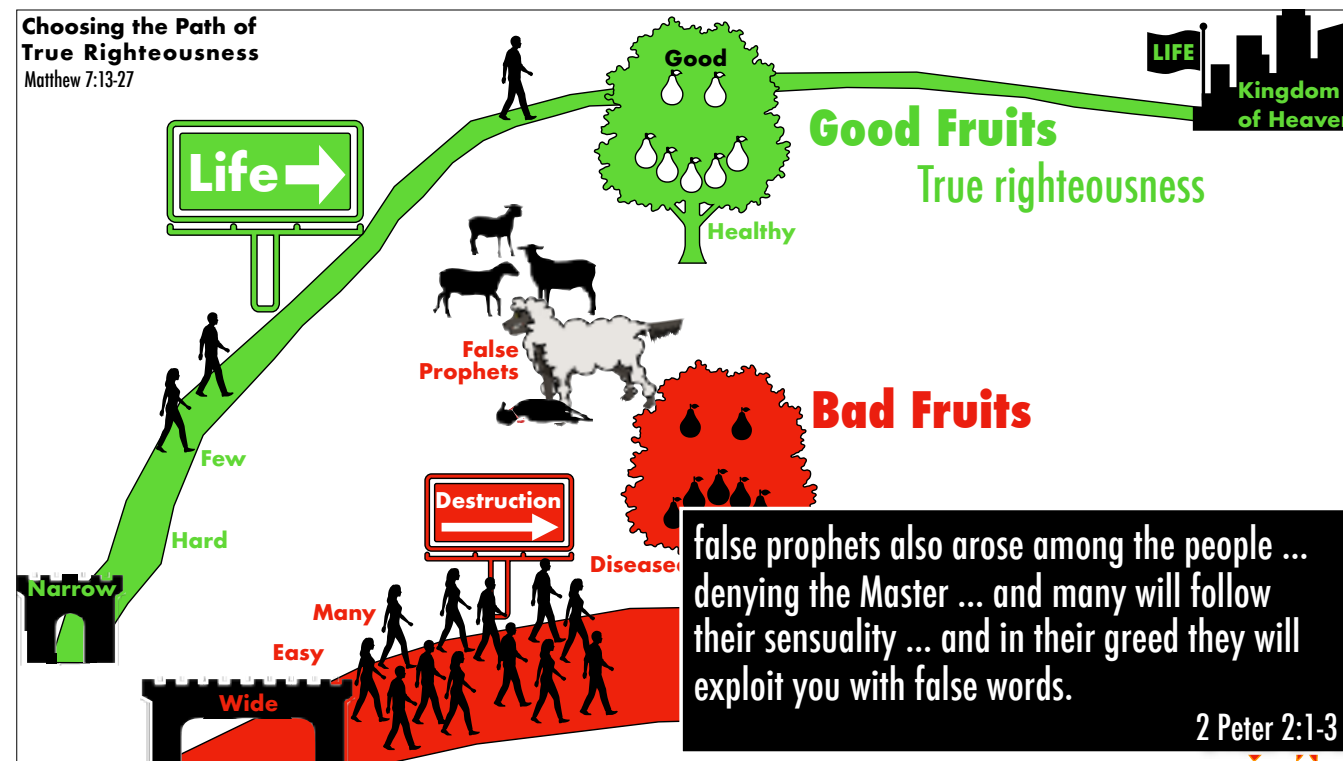
- Righteousness from the heart
 - Not rituals and outward obedience to laws: conformity
 - But an understanding of how God's laws reflect His character and lead us to think and act by those standards.



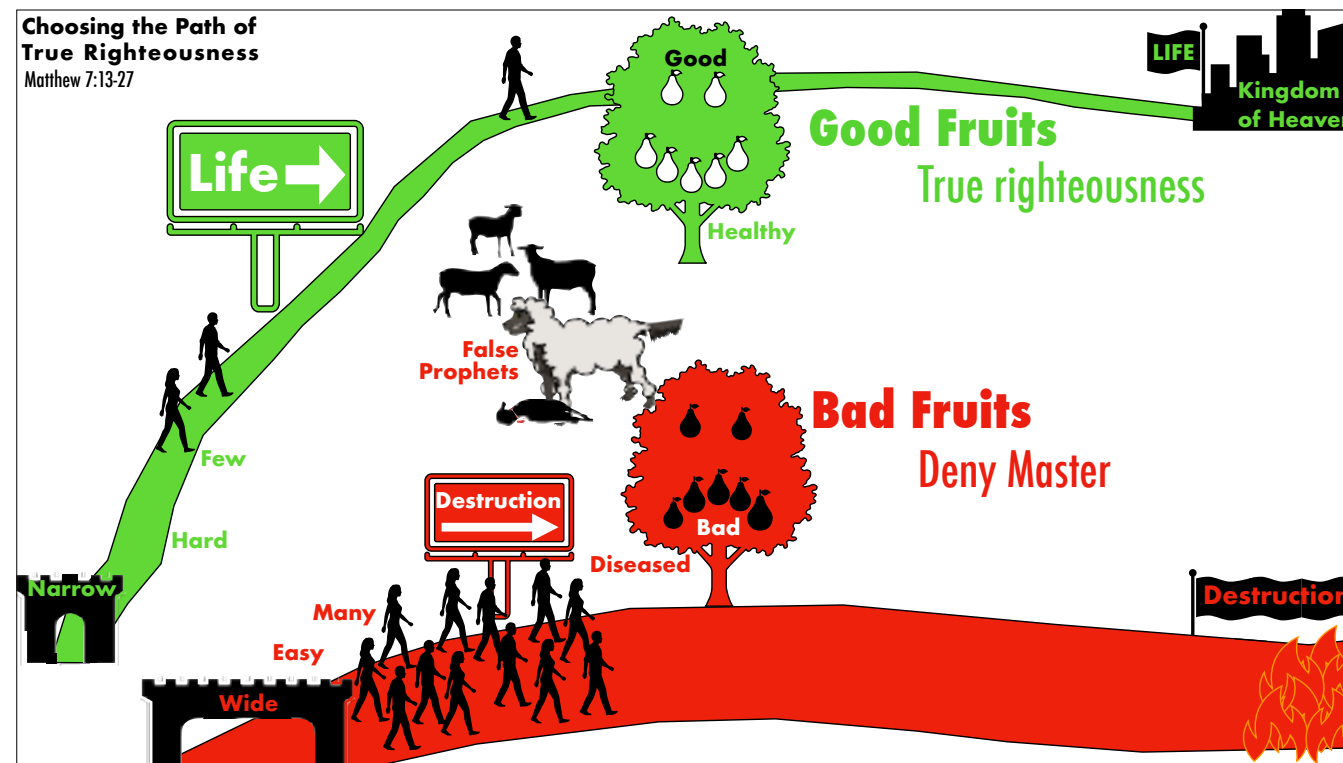
- Practice Righteousness
 - Giving, Fasting, Praying, Anxious, Judging
 - Not to be seen of men.
 - But to help man and please God.



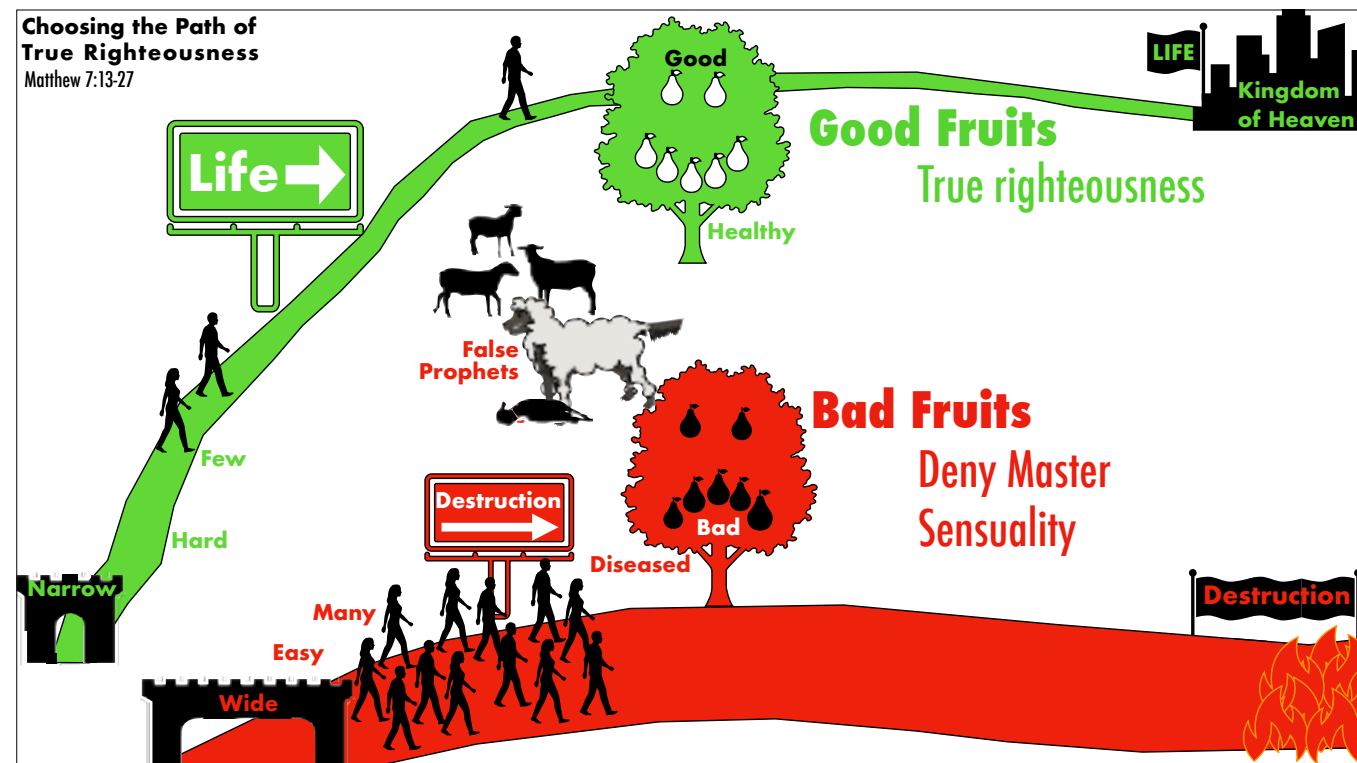
- Bad Fruits
 - Seen in lesson last week
- Jude 1:4: For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.
- 2 Peter 2:1-3: But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.



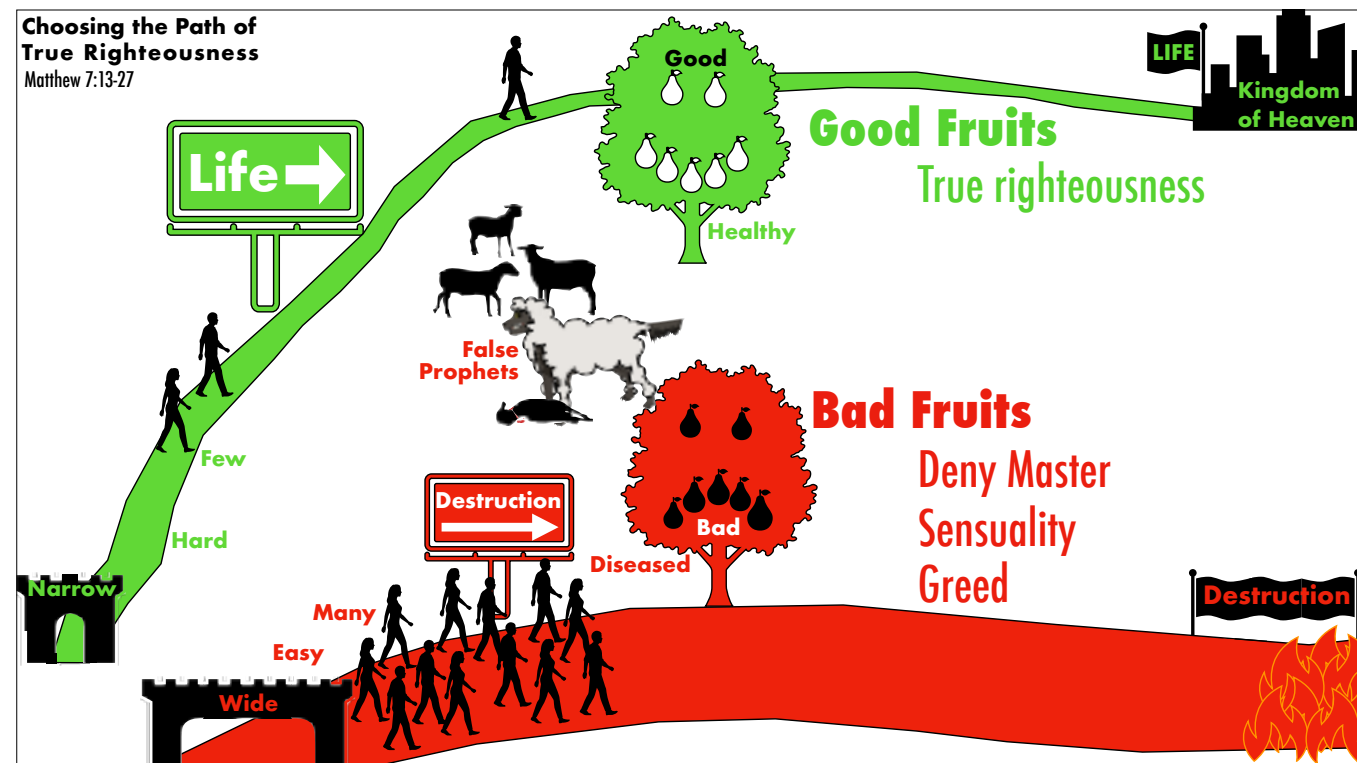
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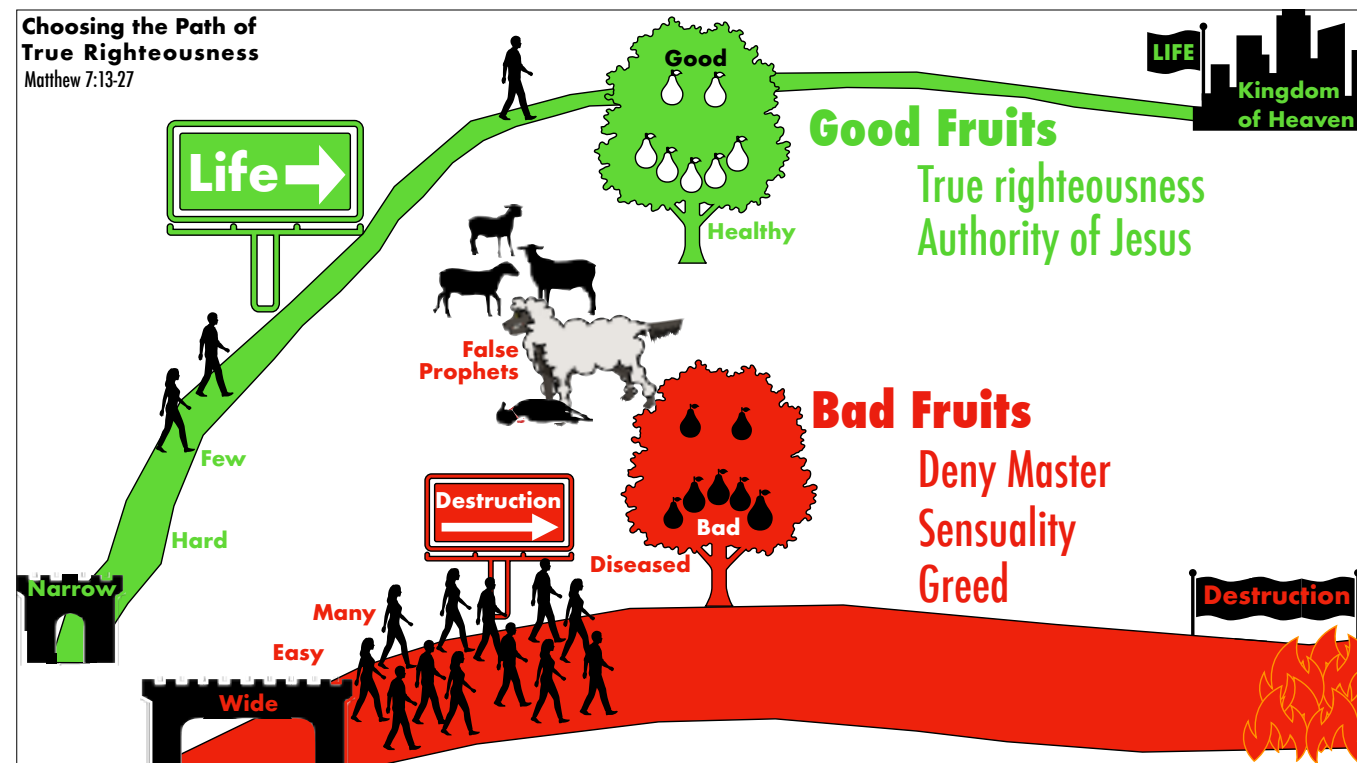
- They deny the master
 - This is much like the OT ... follow other gods and serve them.
 - Rebellious
 - Don't submit to the authority of God, and Jesus



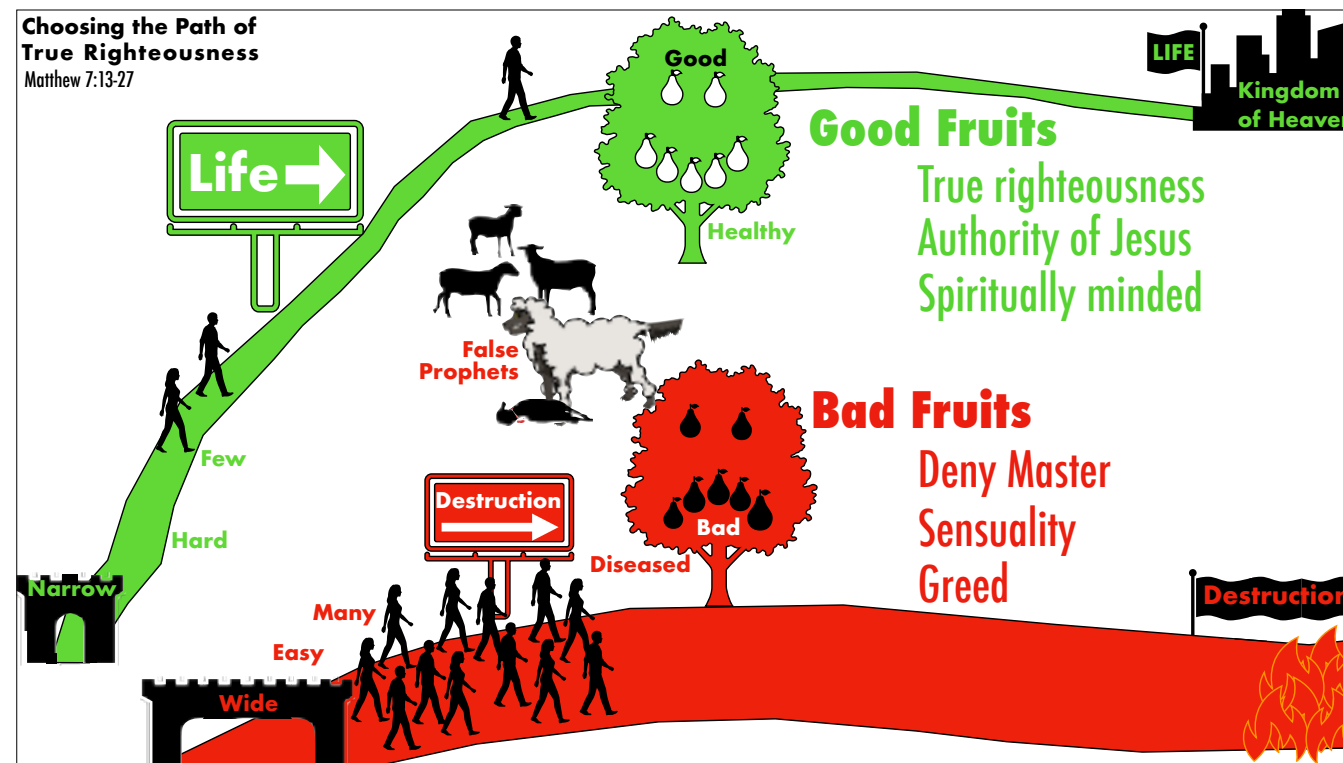
- Sensuality
 - Focus on worldliness
 - Not spiritually minded



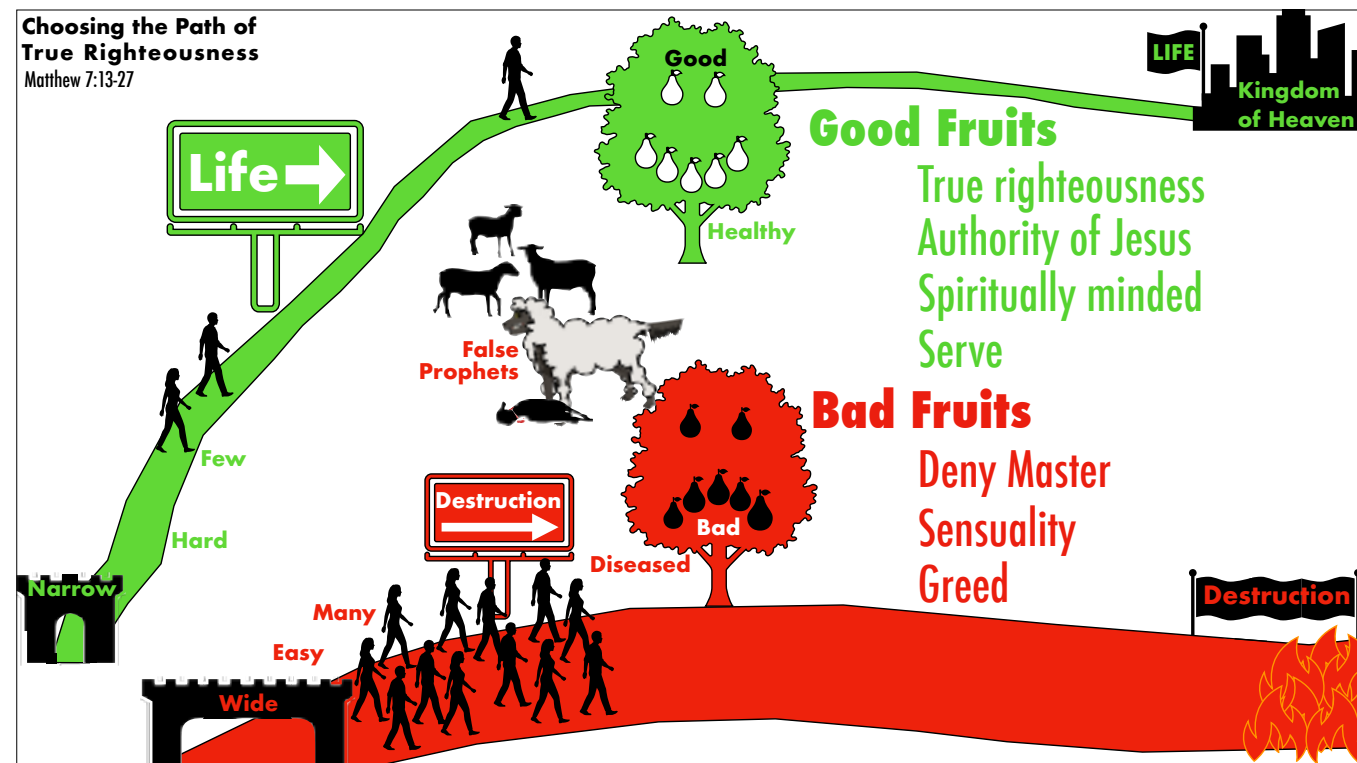
- Greed, Exploit you
 - Use you, take advantage of you
 - Money
 - Masters
- Not servants



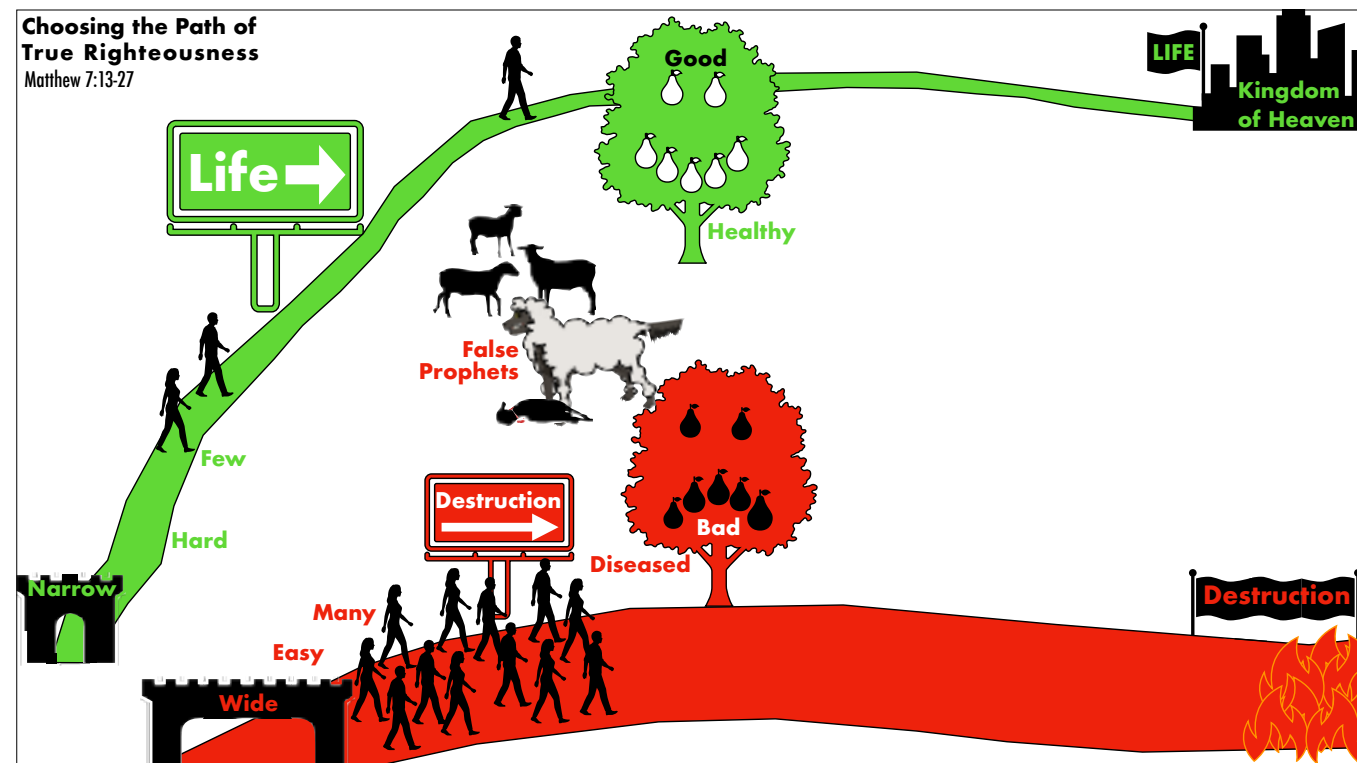
- Turn these around to see good fruits...
- Accept and Advocate the absolute authority of Jesus
- Encourage us to follow Him.



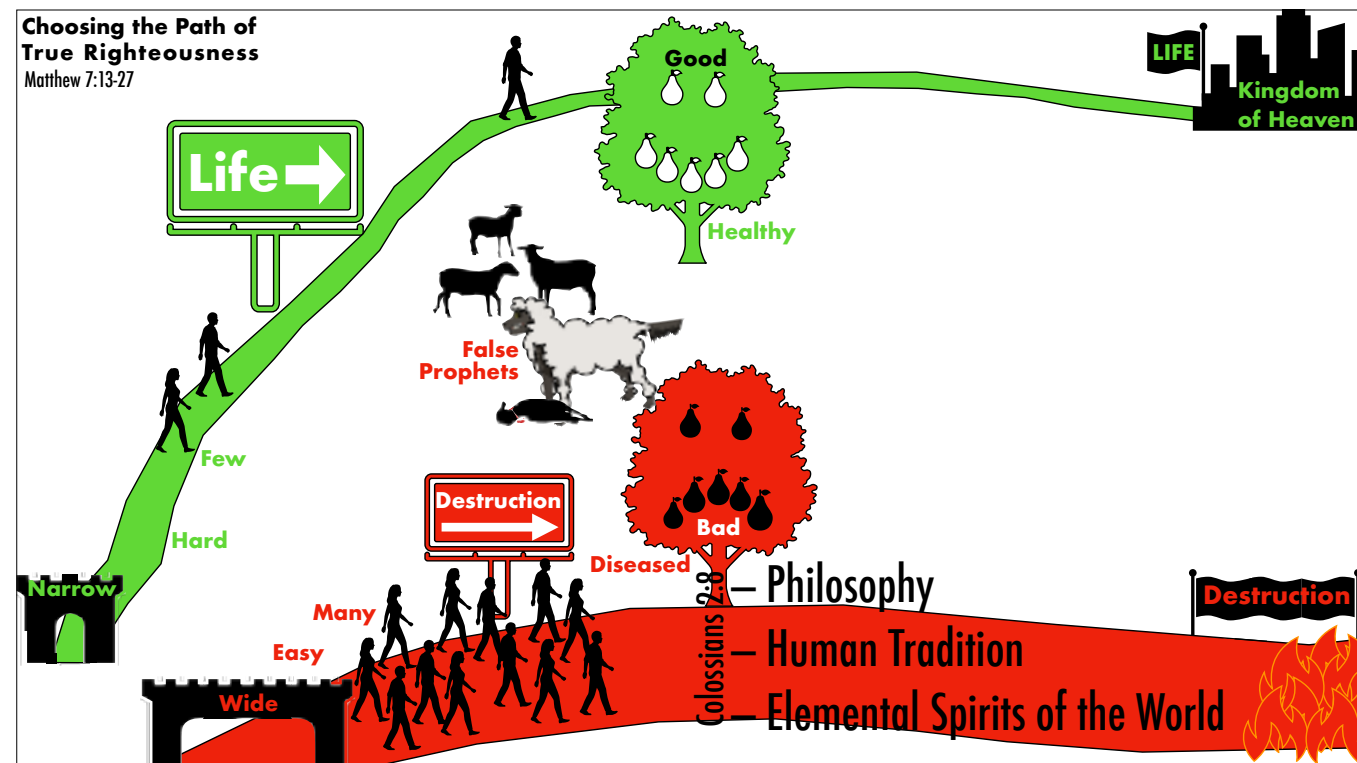
- Spiritual mindedness
 - Encourage us to live Godly lives in an ungodly world.
 - Galatians 5:22-24: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.



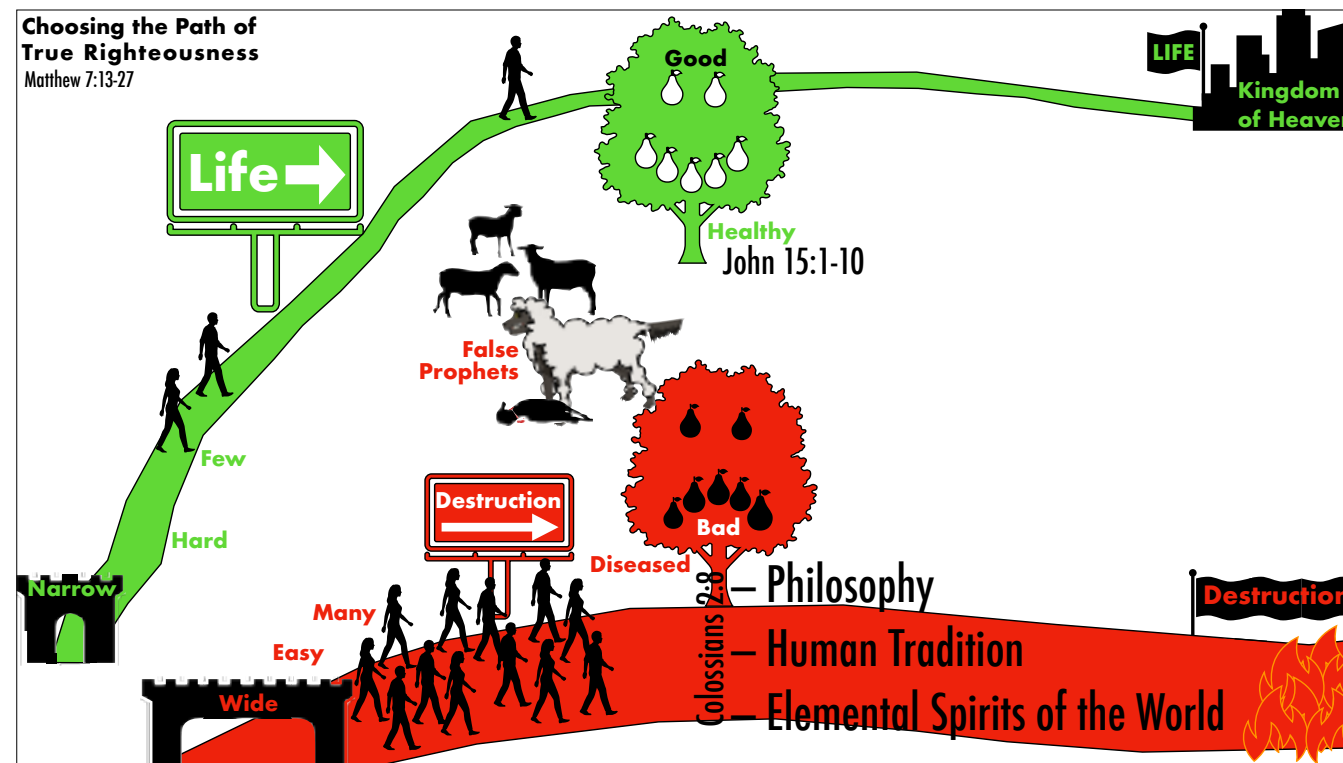
- Servants who give of themselves
- Not master who use and abuse.



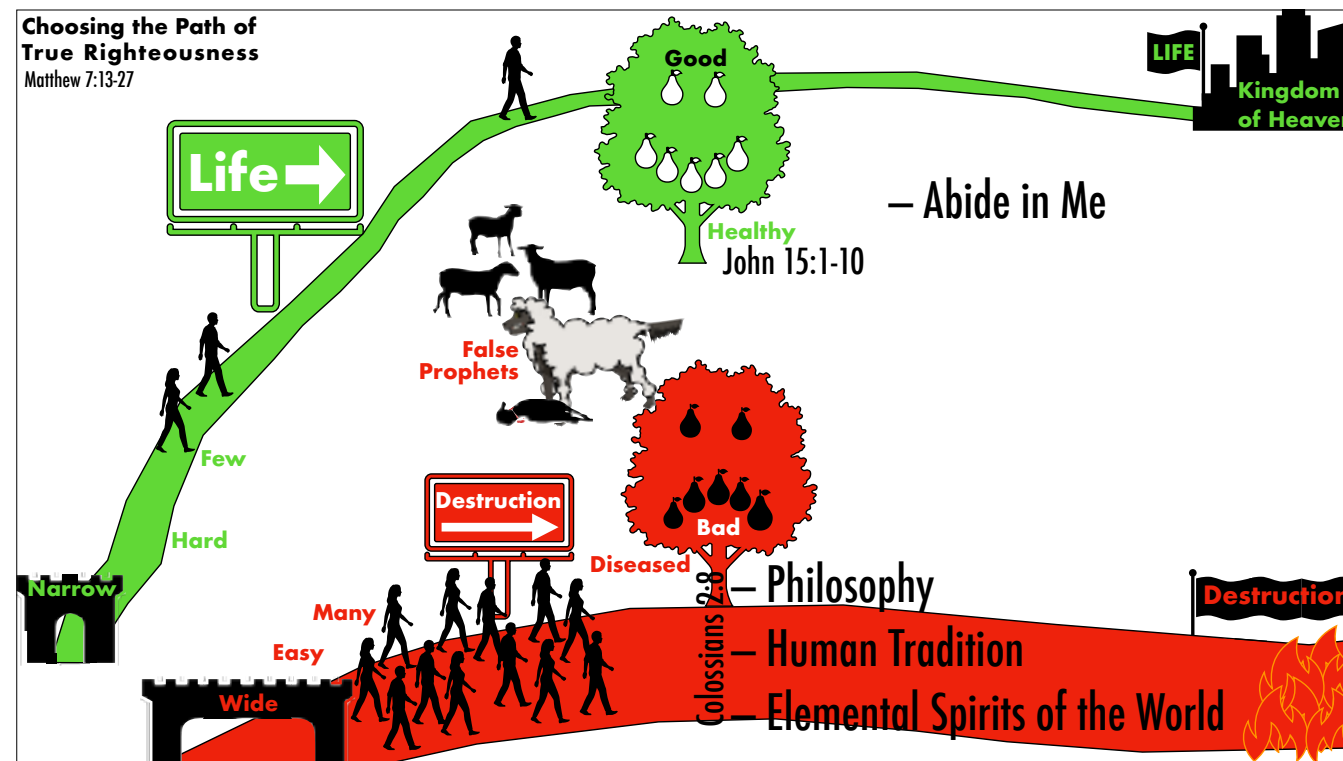
- Trees ... the source of the fruit.
 - Healthy or Diseased



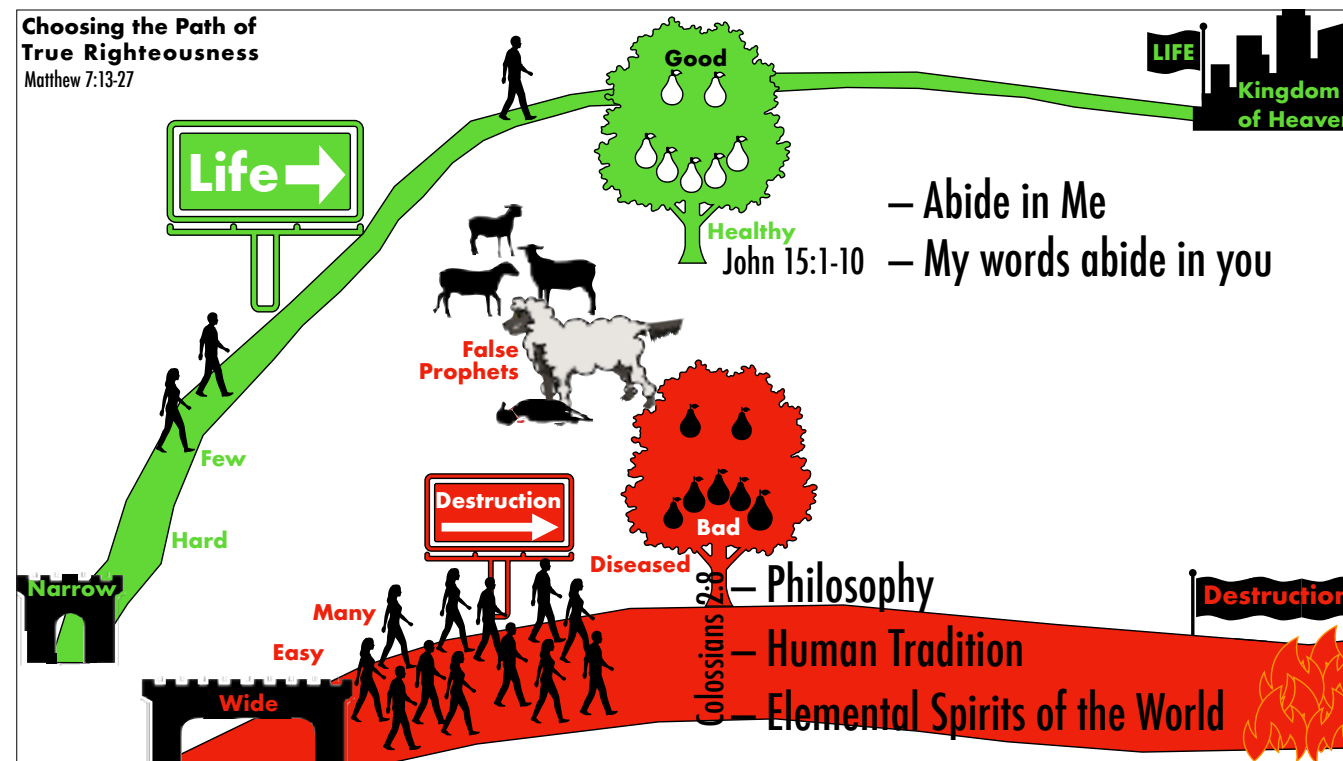
- Diseased
 - Colossians 2:8: See to it that no one takes you captive by **philosophy** and empty deceit, according to **human tradition**, according to the **elemental spirits of the world**, and not according to Christ.



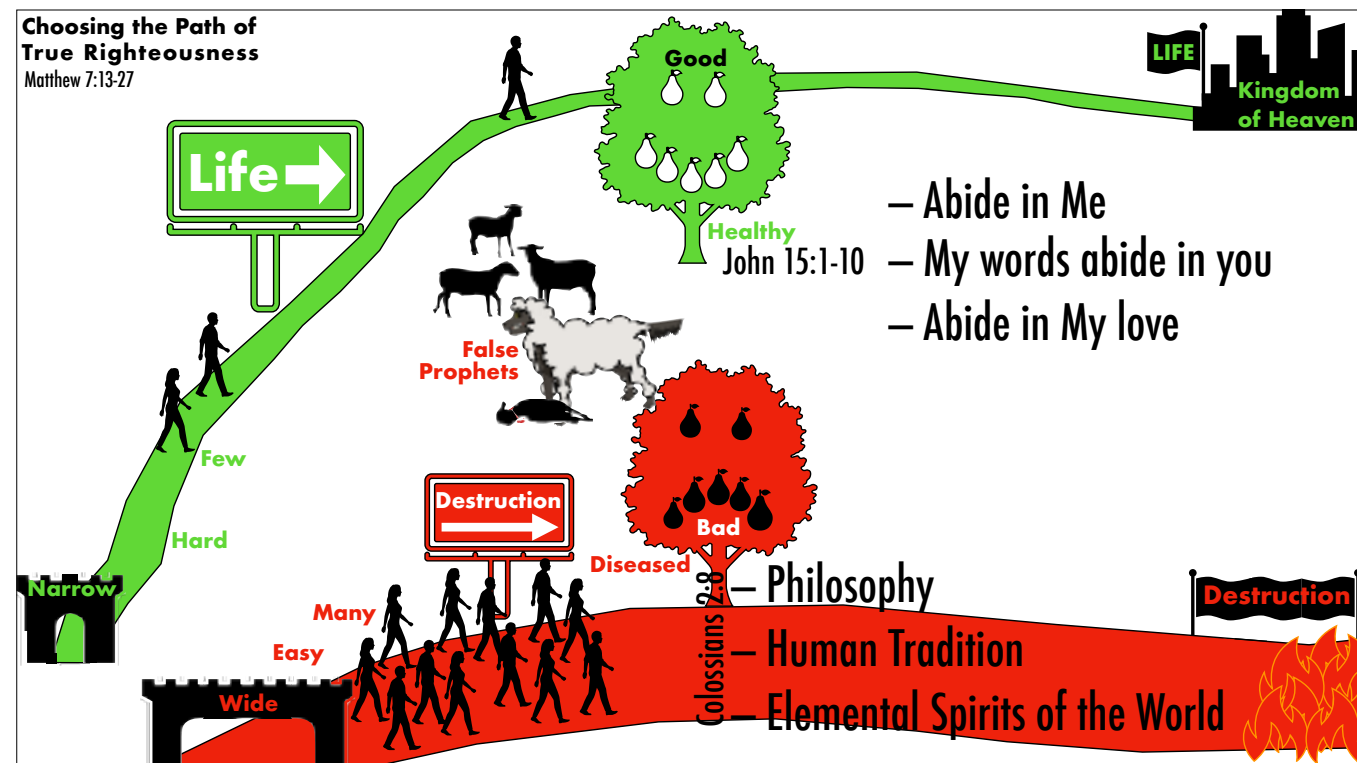
- Healthy — Different analogy, same concept?
 - John 15:1-10 (ESV) 1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.



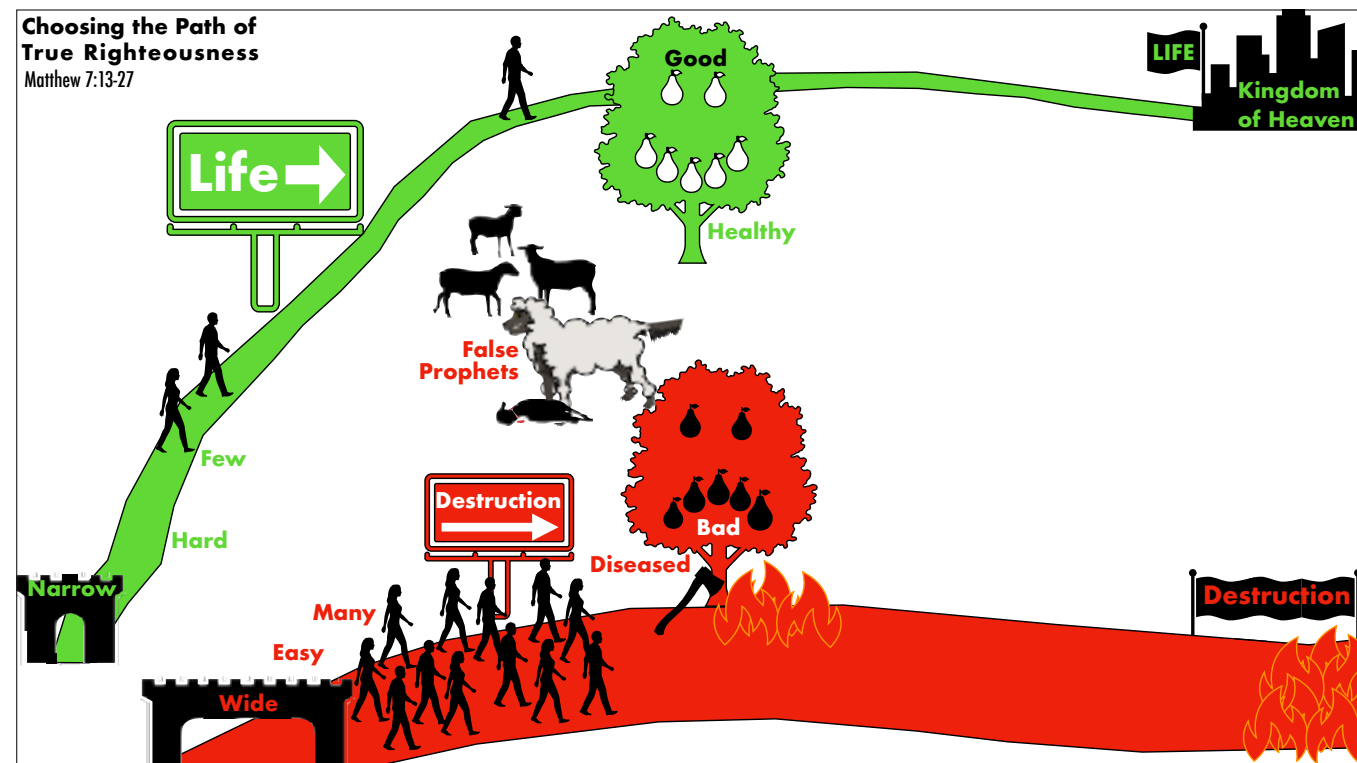
- 7 If you **abide in me**, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- 1 John 4:1-3 (ESV) 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.



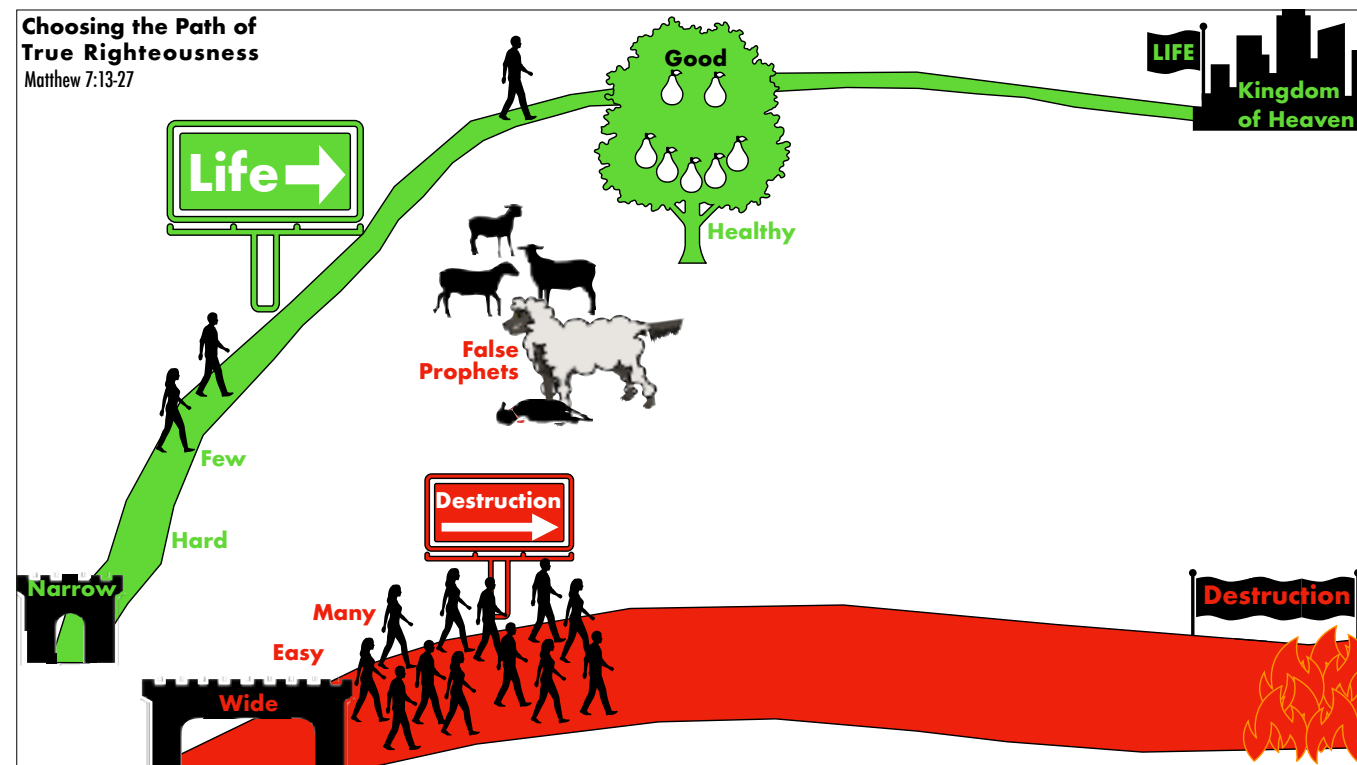
- 7 If you abide in me, and **my words abide in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- Hebrews 1:1-2 (ESV) 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days **he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.
- Jude 1:3 (ESV) Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for **the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints**.



- 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.
 - 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.



- Matthew 7:19 (ESV) 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.



- Beware of False Prophets
- Make time to recognize them... Fruits and Tree
- Continue safely on the path of life in His Kingdom.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Recognizing a False Prophet

Matthew 7:15-20

Synopsis: Jesus has warned us to beware of false prophets and goes on to remind us that we can know them by their fruits. His sermon on the mount has provided an understanding of good fruit: true righteousness. Other passages help us understand bad fruit and amplify our knowledge of good fruit.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."