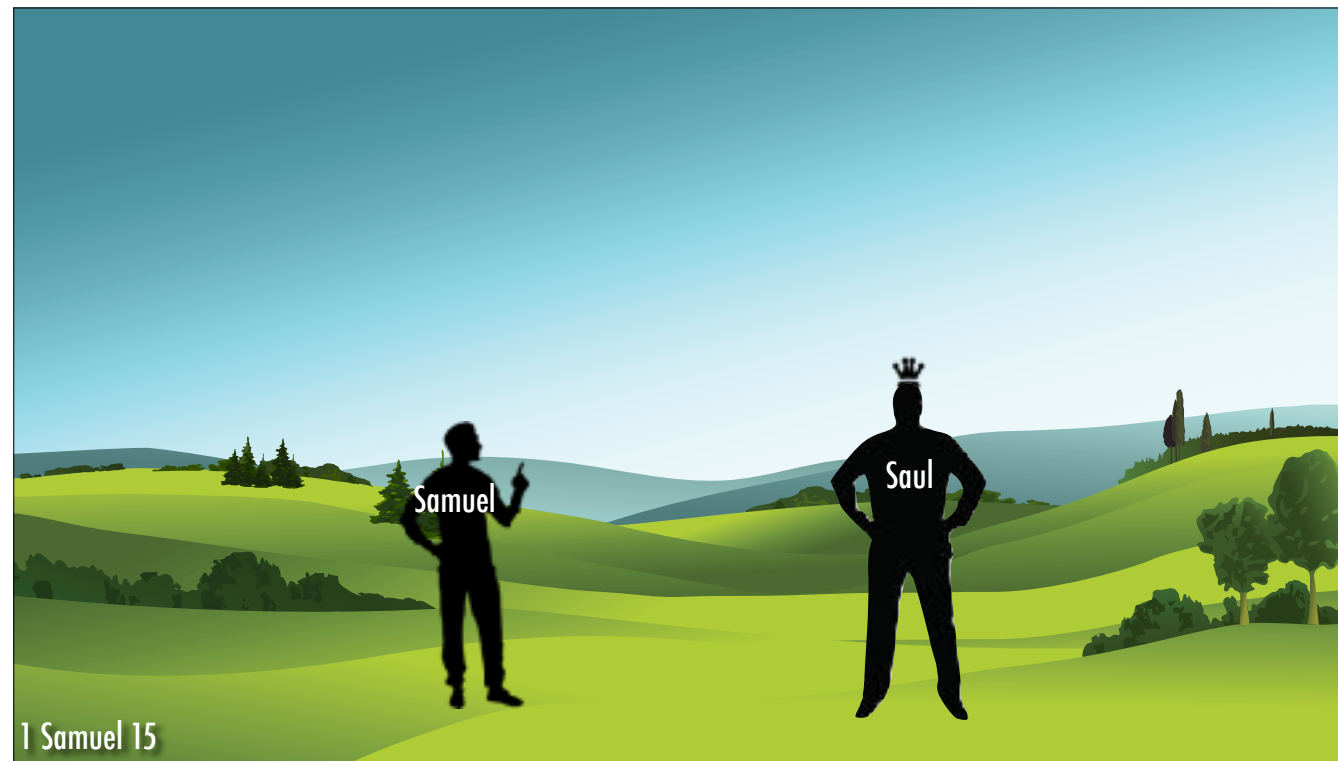
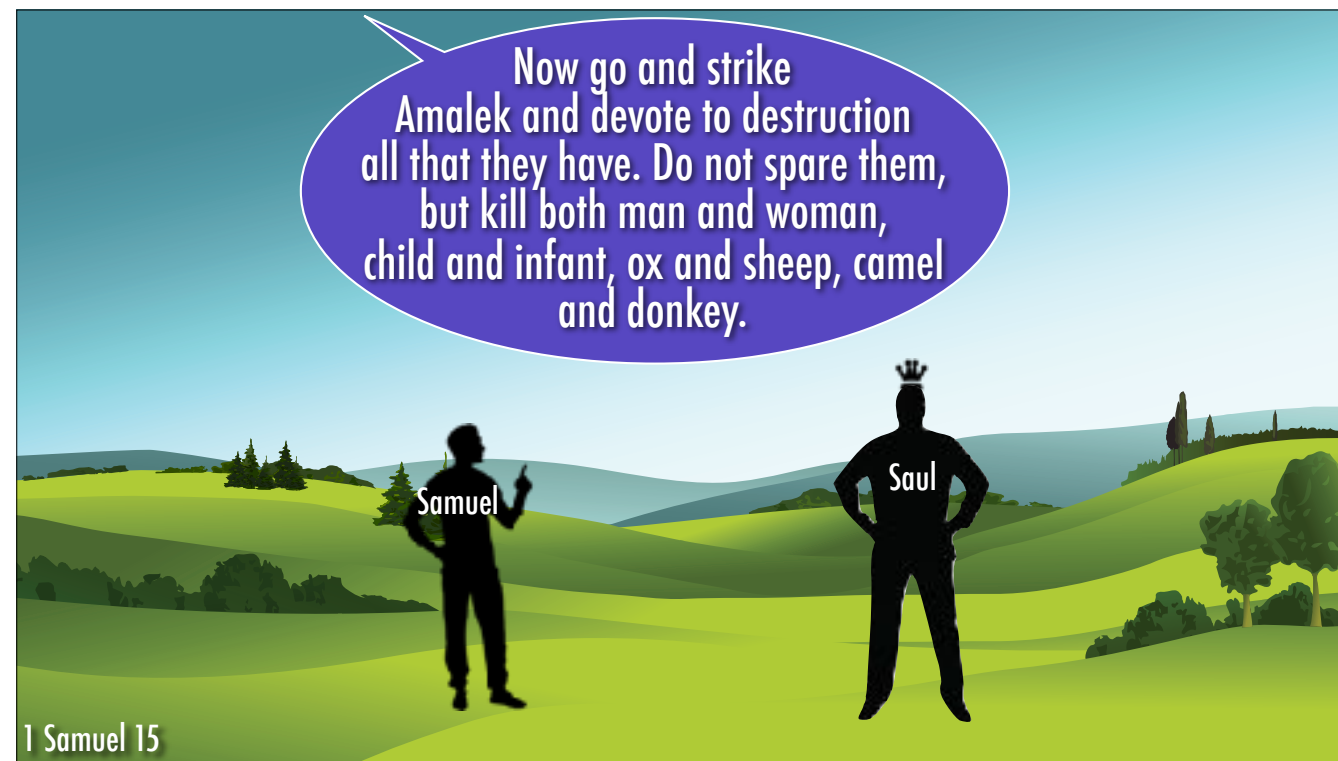


- 1 Samuel 15
-



- 1 Samuel 15:1-2 (ESV) 1 And Samuel said to Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of the Lord. 2 Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt.



- 1 Samuel 15:3: Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.”



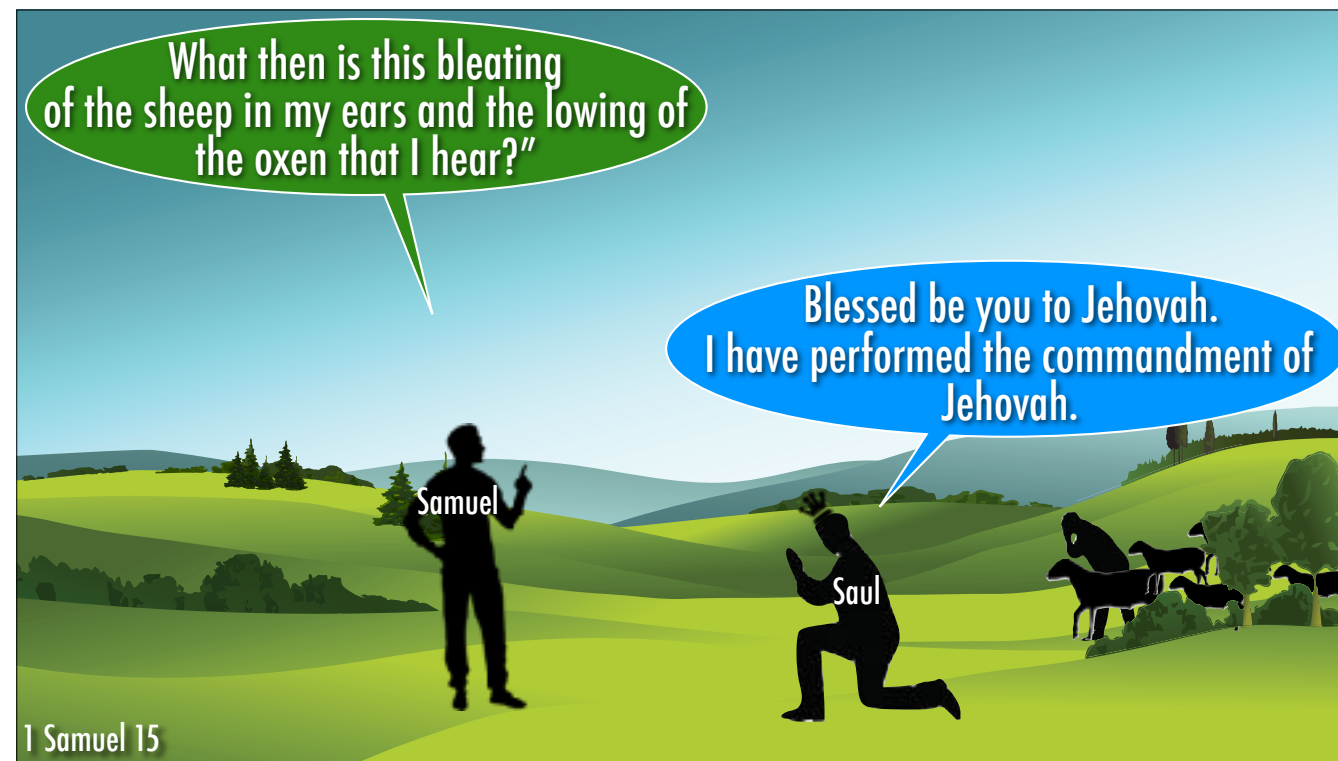
- 1 Samuel 15:11: “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.” And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the Lord all night.



- 1 Samuel 15:13: And Samuel came to Saul,



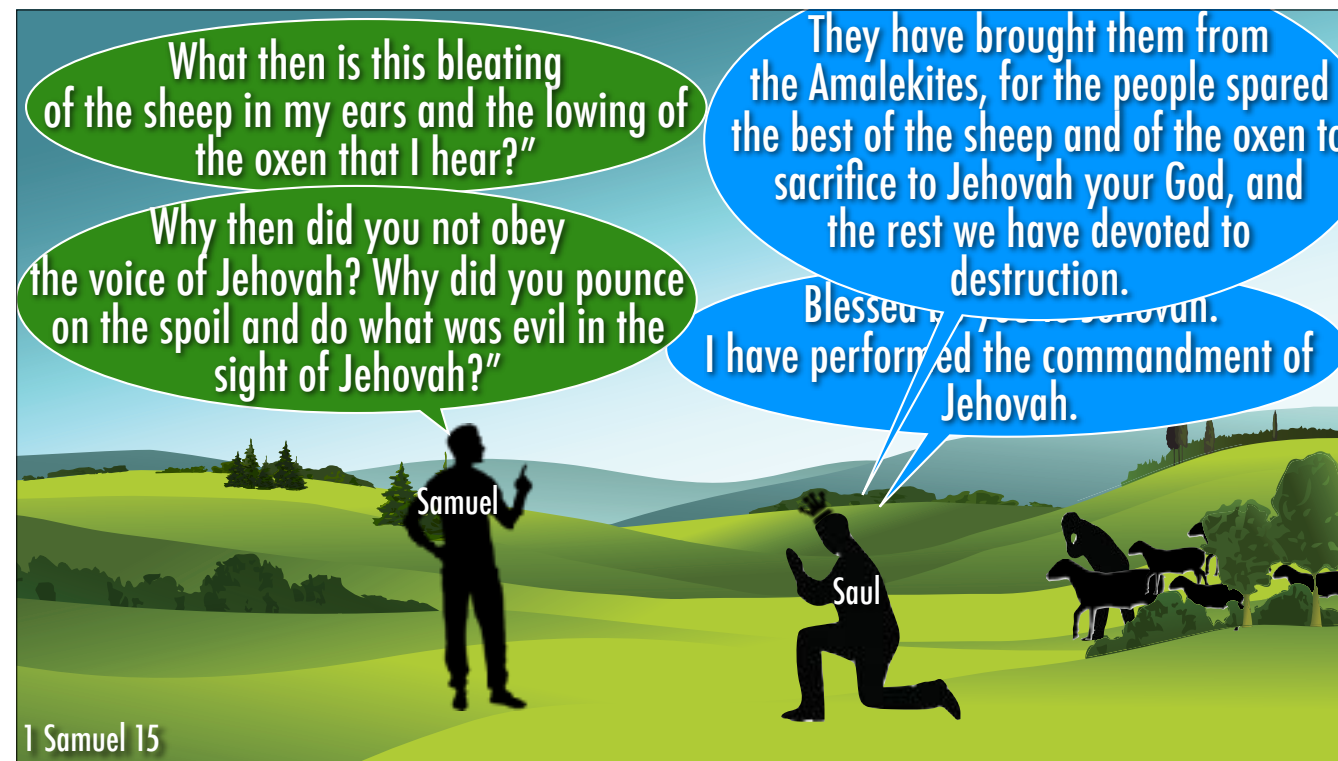
- 1 Samuel 15:13: And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed be you to Jehovah. I have performed the commandment of Jehovah.”
- Consider that perhaps Saul was sincere and genuine when he made this statement to Samuel.



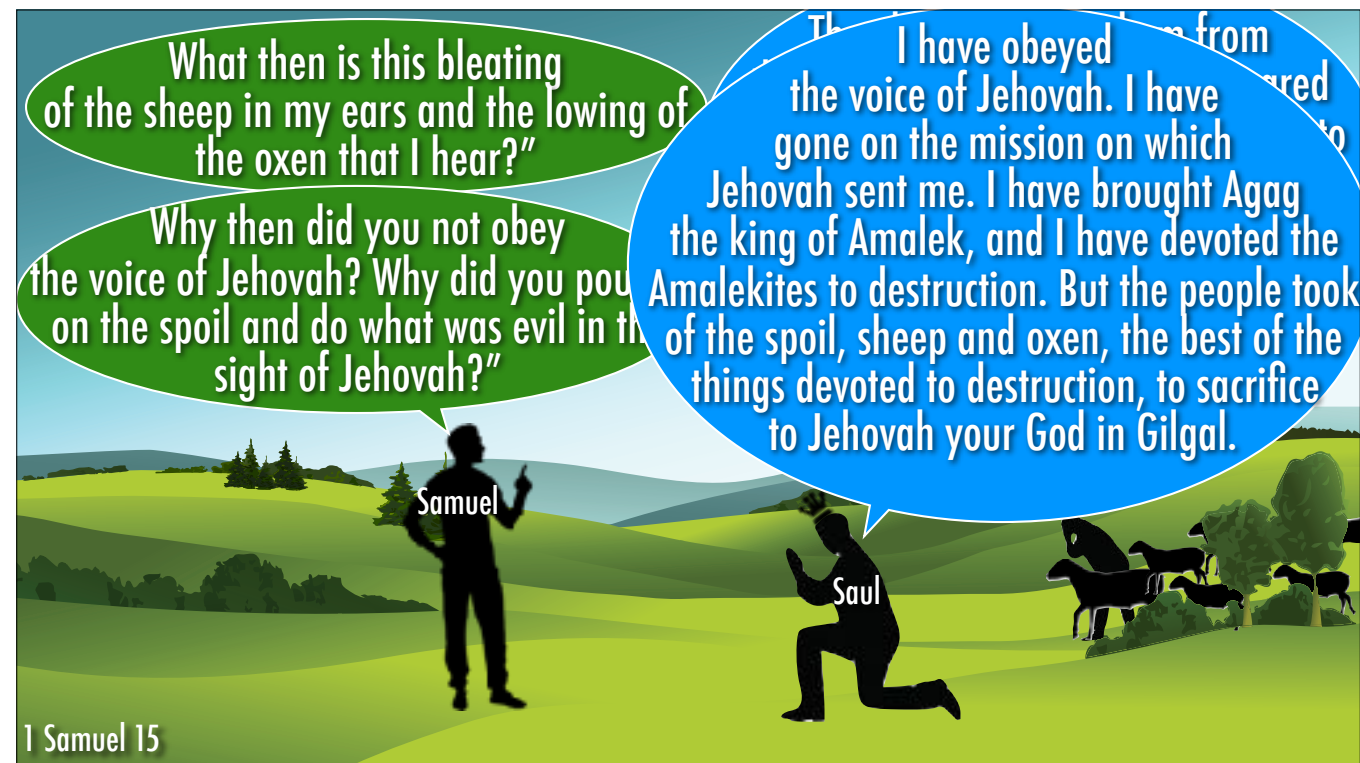
- 14 And Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?"



- 15 Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the Lord your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction."
- In Saul's mind, he has done what commanded... and more.
 - Sacrifice! The Best.



- 1 Samuel 15:17-19 (ESV) 17 And Samuel said, "Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. 18 And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, 'Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' 19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?"



- 1 Samuel 15:20-21 (ESV) 20 And Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. 21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal."

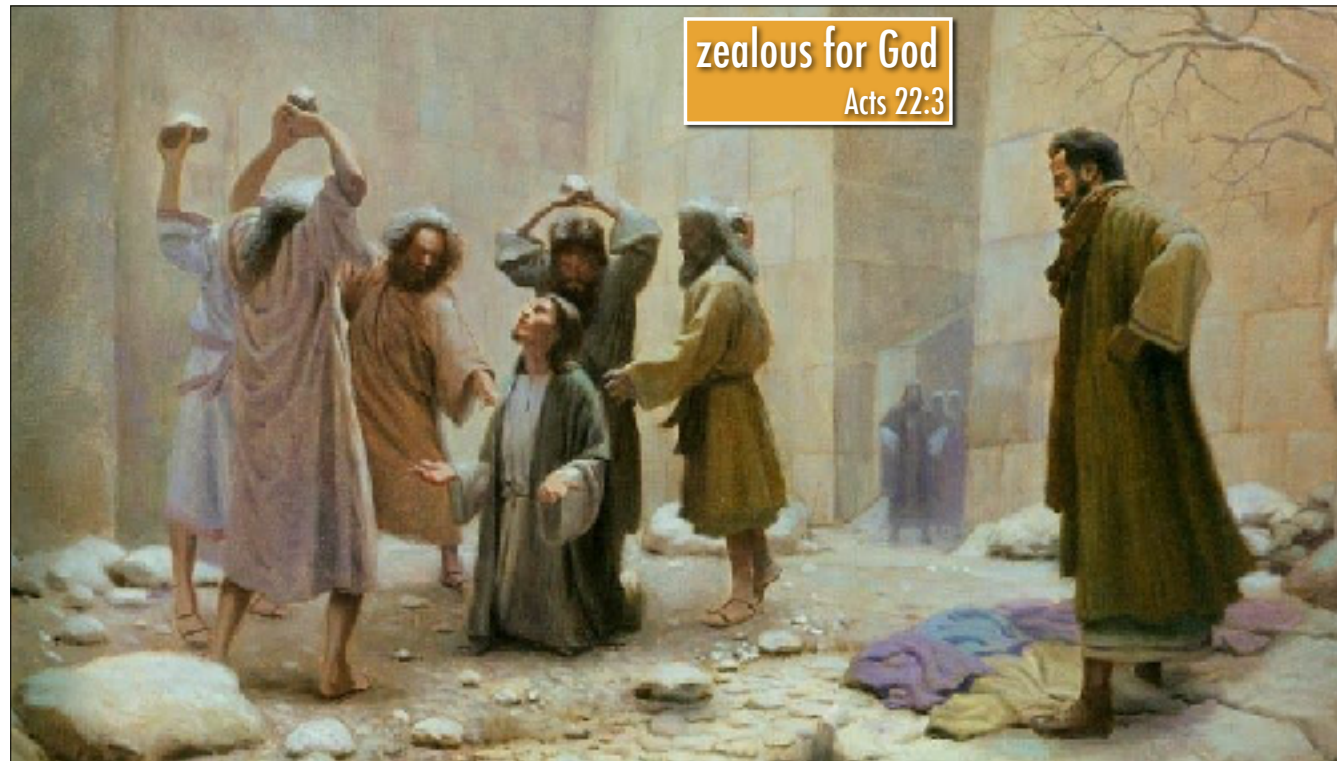


- Still, Saul may sincerely believe that he obeyed God.

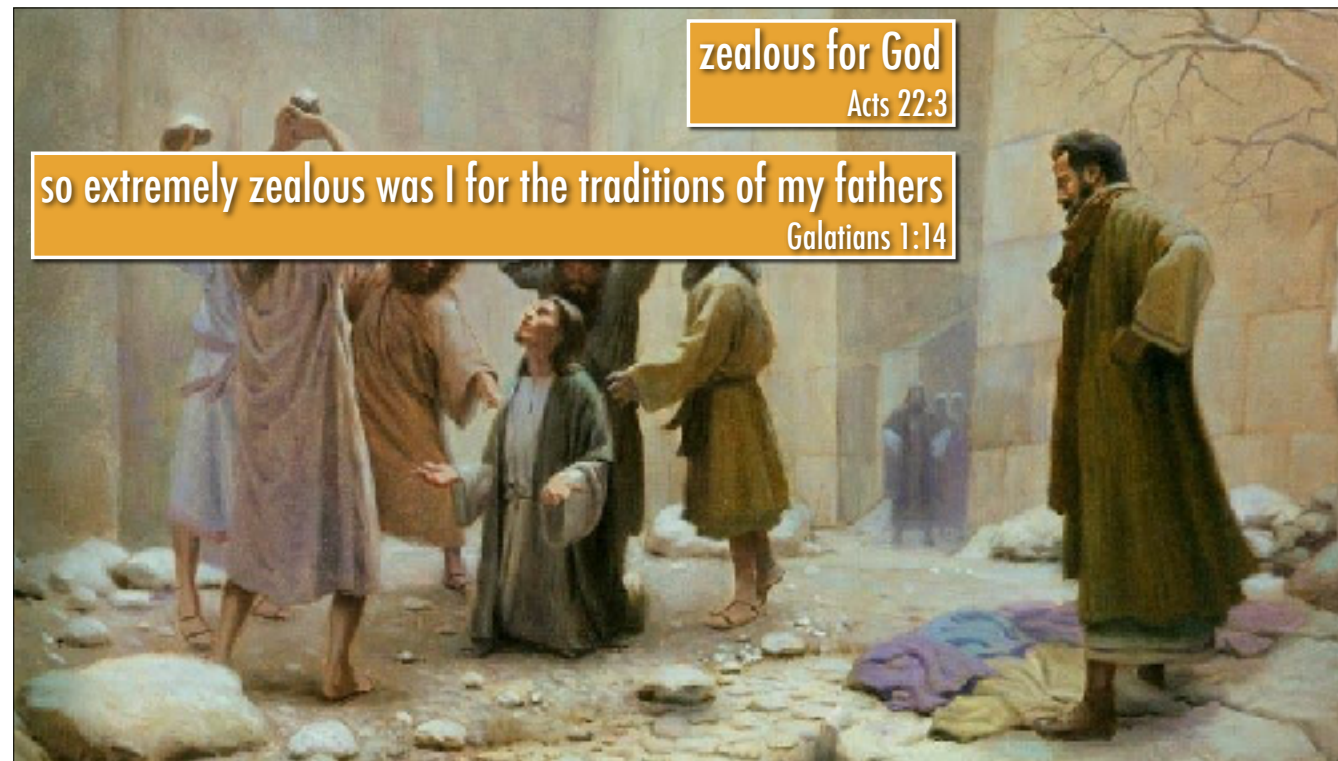


I have obeyed
the voice of Jehovah.

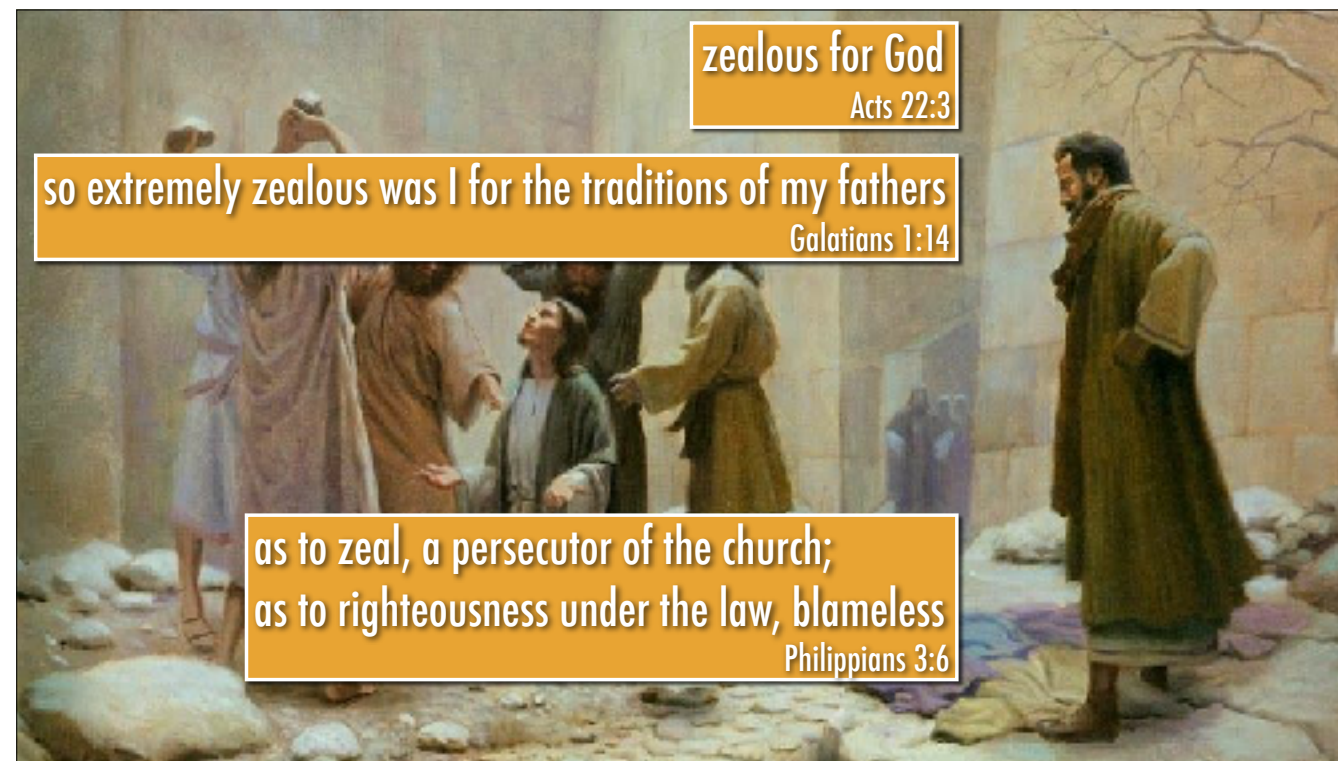
- Many of us are like Saul... at various points in our lives.
 - Our intentions are to obey
 - We sincerely convince ourselves that we are submitting to God, humbling ourselves
 - We attempt to convince others that only our way is the right way.
- Consider a particular Pharisee... Saul



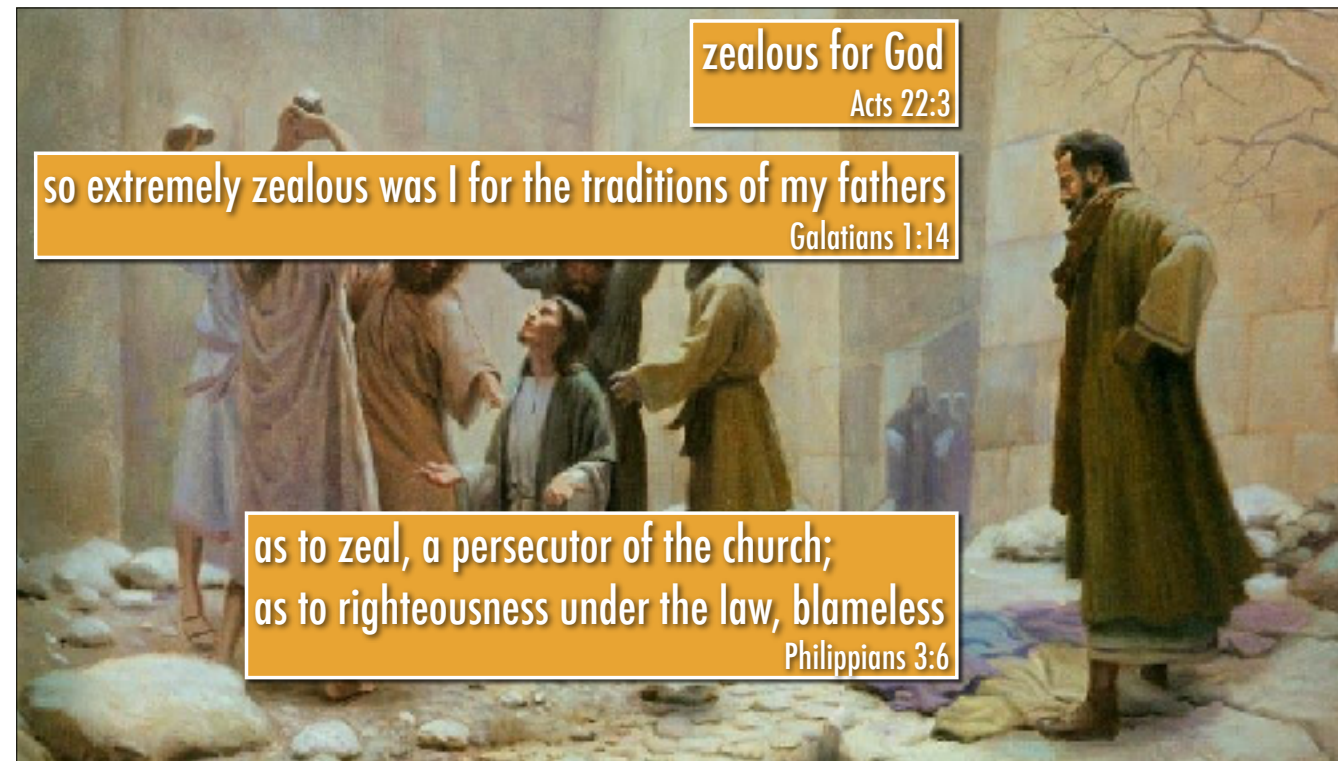
- Acts 22:3: being zealous for God as all of you are this day



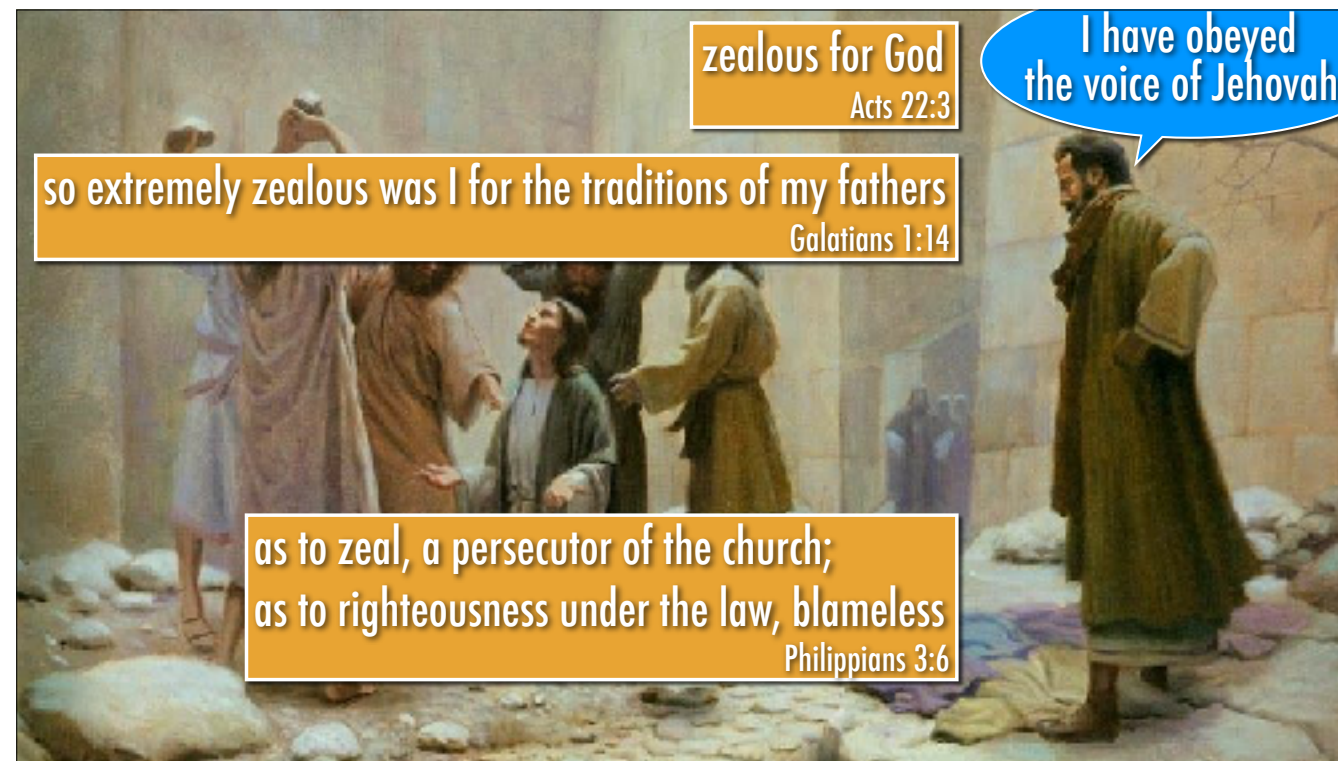
- Galatians 1:14: so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.



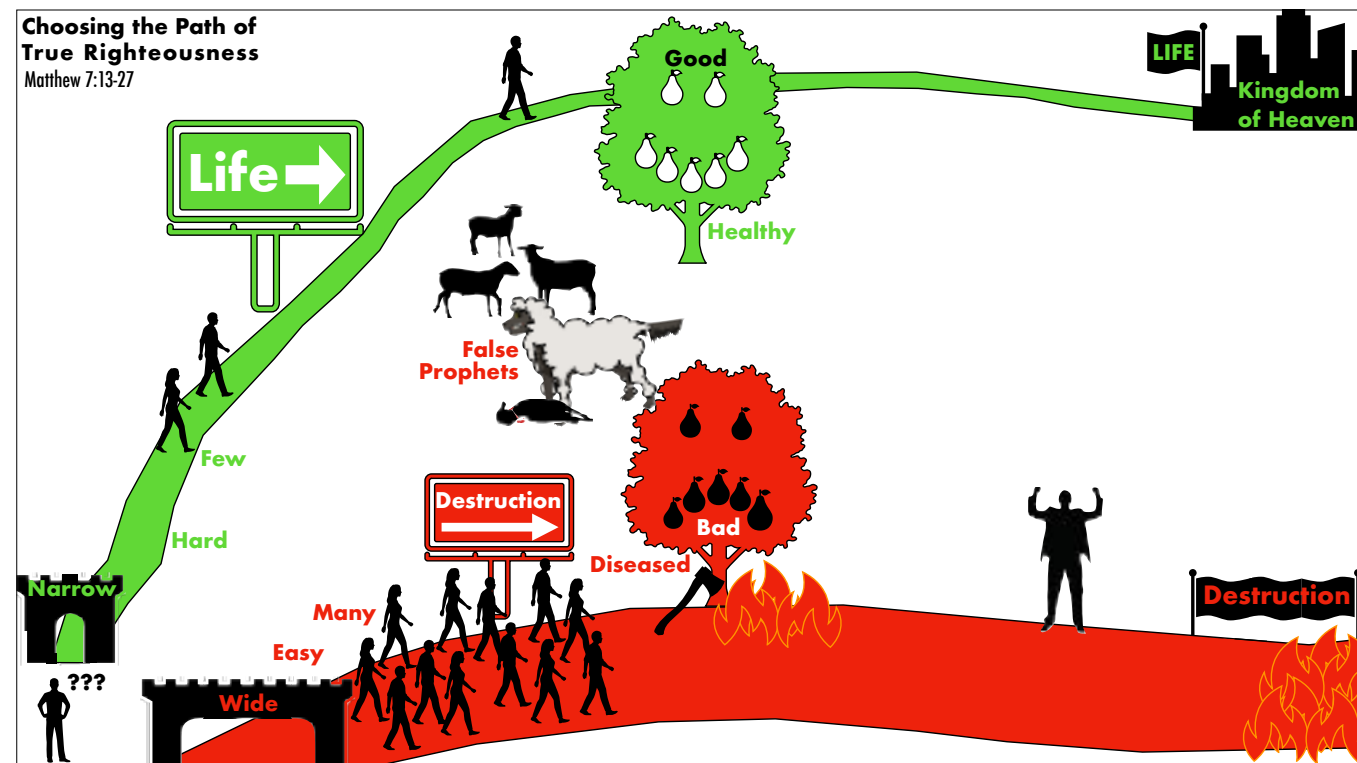
- Philippians 3:5-6 (ESV) 5 as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.



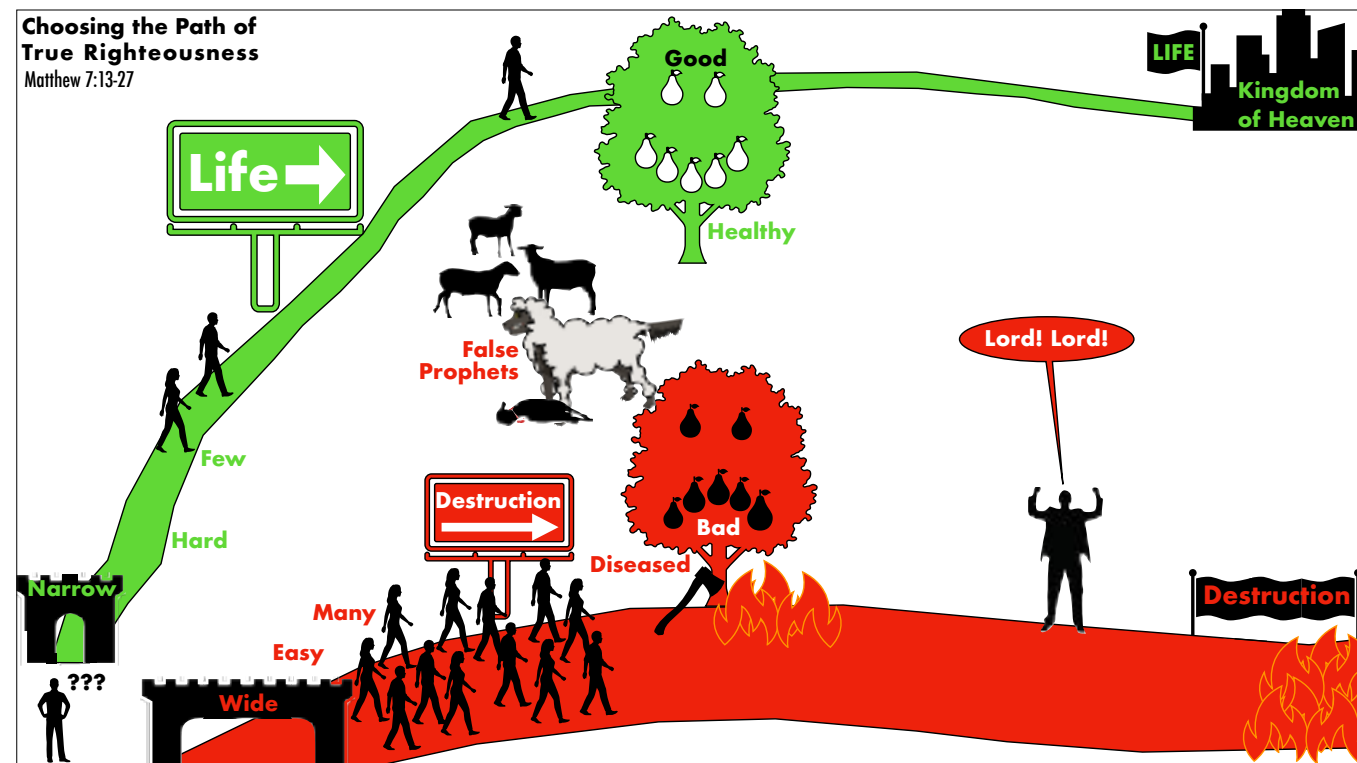
- Acts 8:3: But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.
- Acts 9:1: But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest
- Acts 22:4: I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,



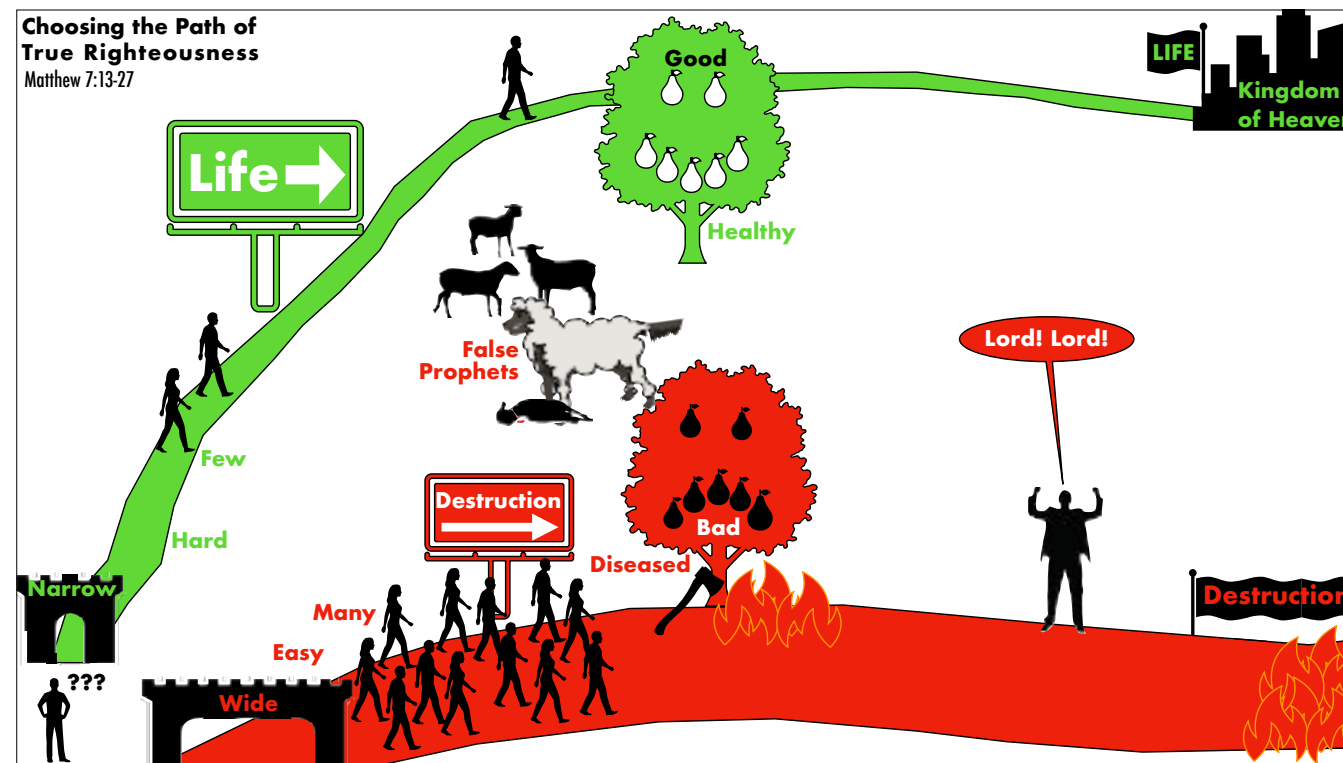
- Is it true and equitable to say that Saul, prior to his meeting with Jesus on road to Damascus, sincerely thought that He was obeying His Father?
- This is a great danger
- Demonstrated in how powerfully the S&P resisted the teaching of Jesus.
- But each of us is liable to have such confidence that we are liable to fall into the same trap
 - And so fail to really hear what Jesus is teaching us.



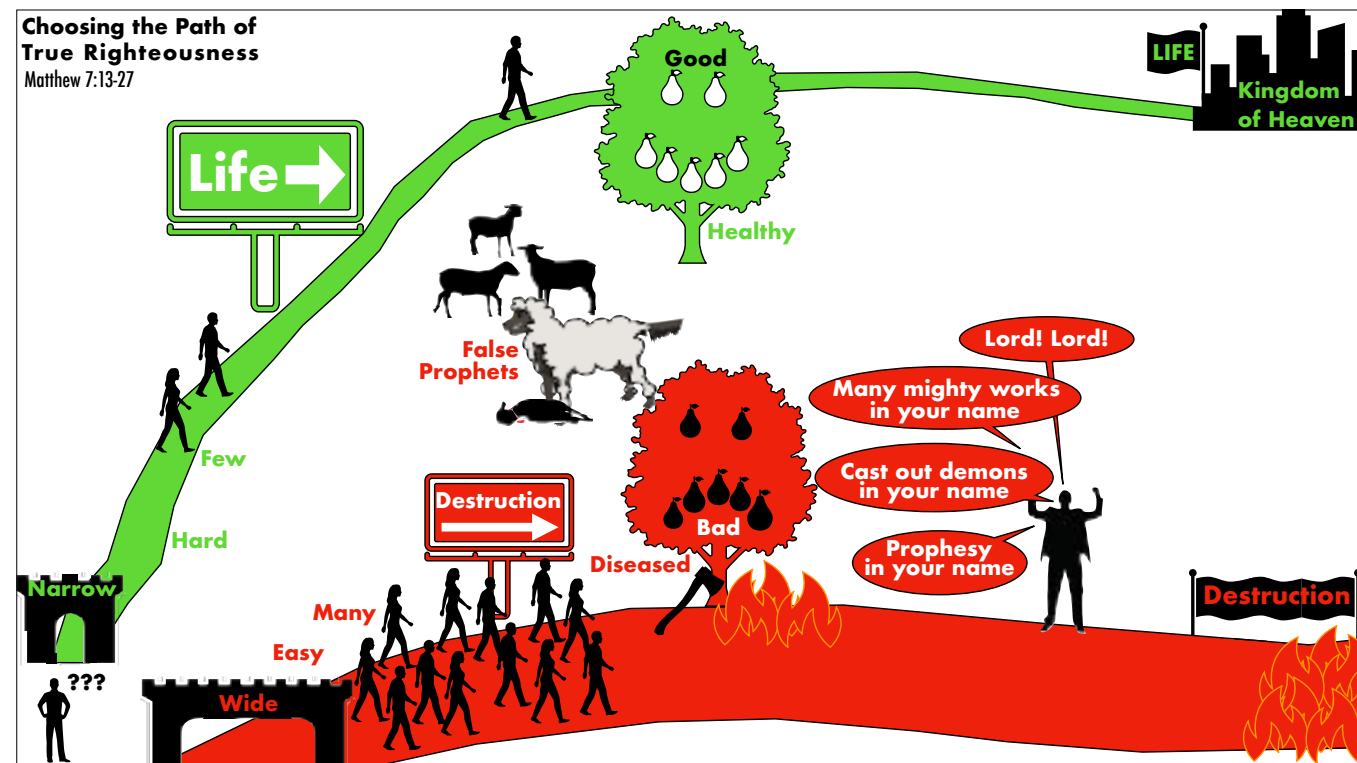
- How often have I misused this passage to bash others, when clearly Jesus is warning me that I may often and easily deceive myself?
- How often have I used this passage to exalt myself, thinking that I certainly must be saved.



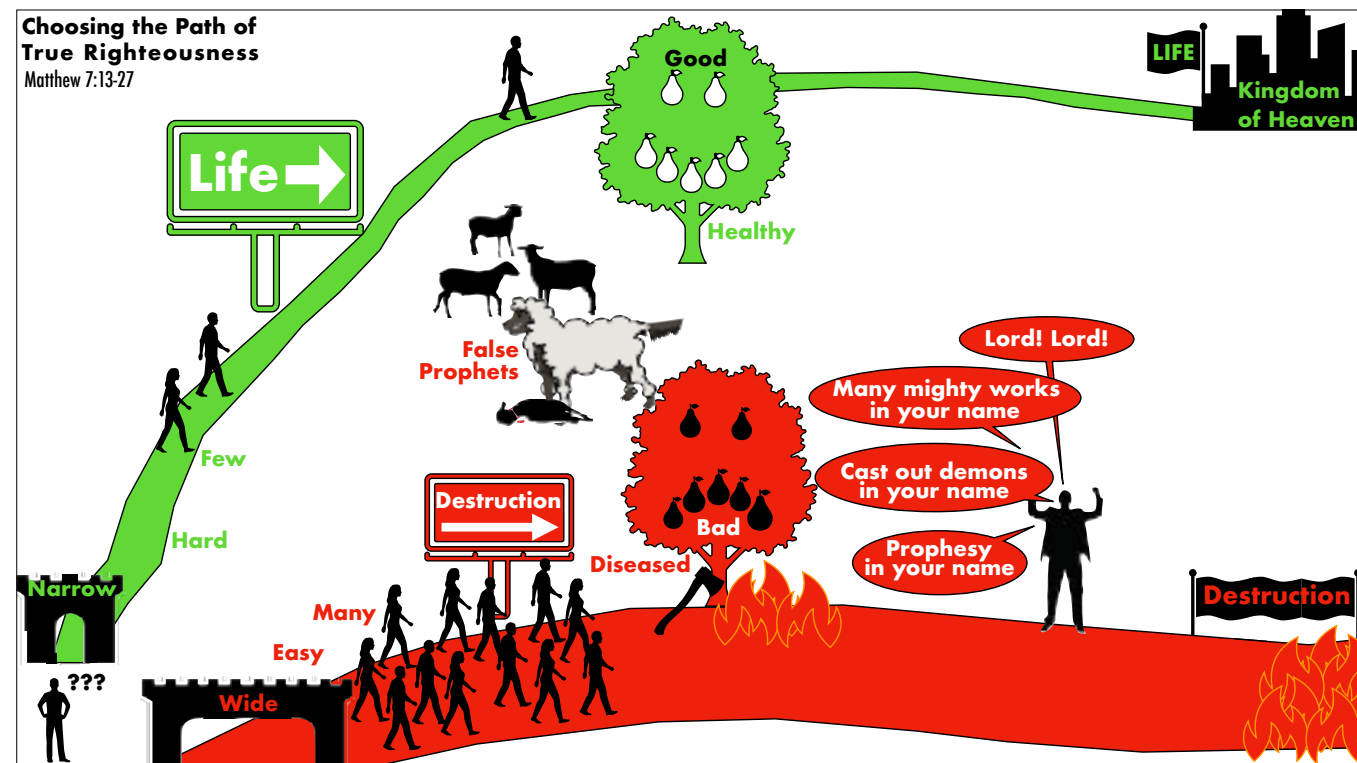
- One way I deceive myself is by ascertaining that I have correctly believe.
 - say and believe right things about Jesus
 - confess Him: Jesus is Lord!
 - must mean those things when we say them.
 - too often concerns my lips only, not my life.
 - Jam. 2.9 - demons believe and tremble



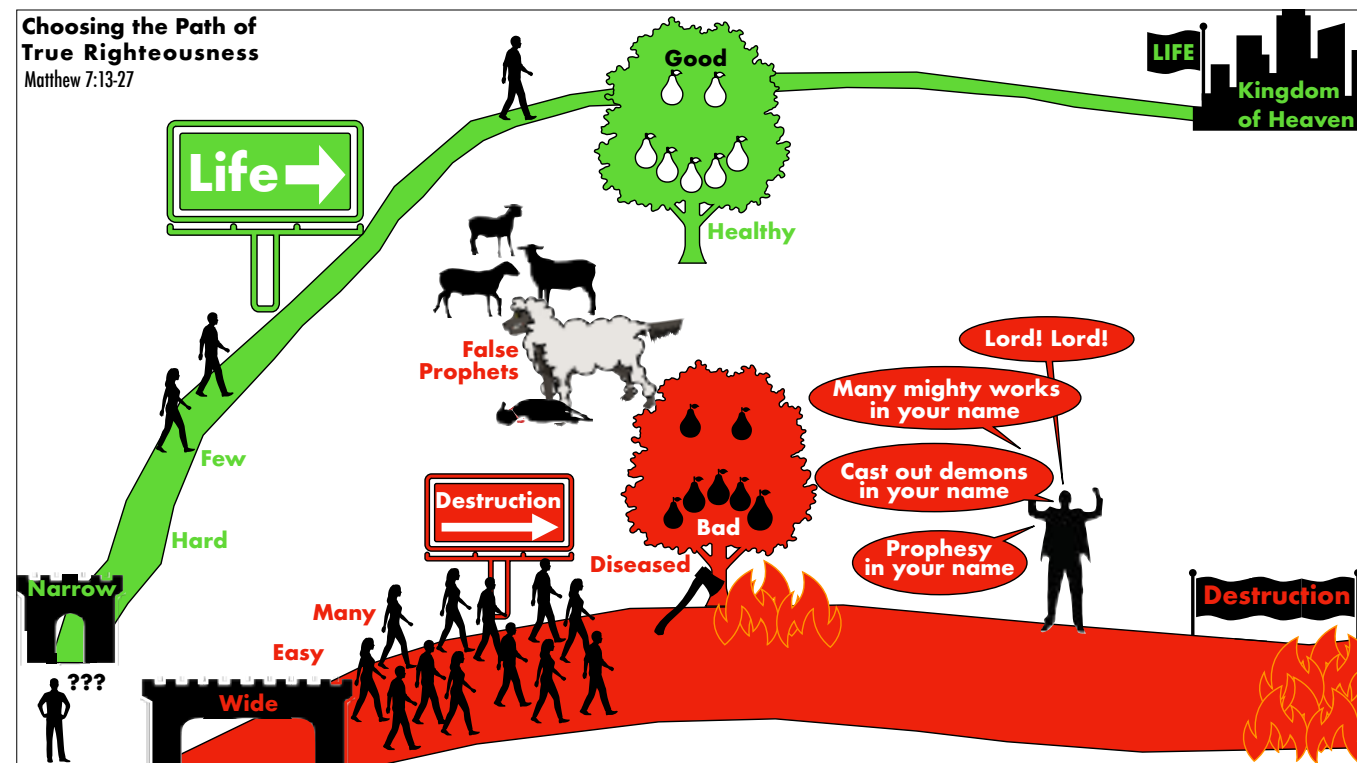
- Another is fervent zealousness
 - not just Lord, but Lord, Lord
 - not just intellectual assent but emotion and feeling
 - Romans 10:2-4 (ESV) For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.



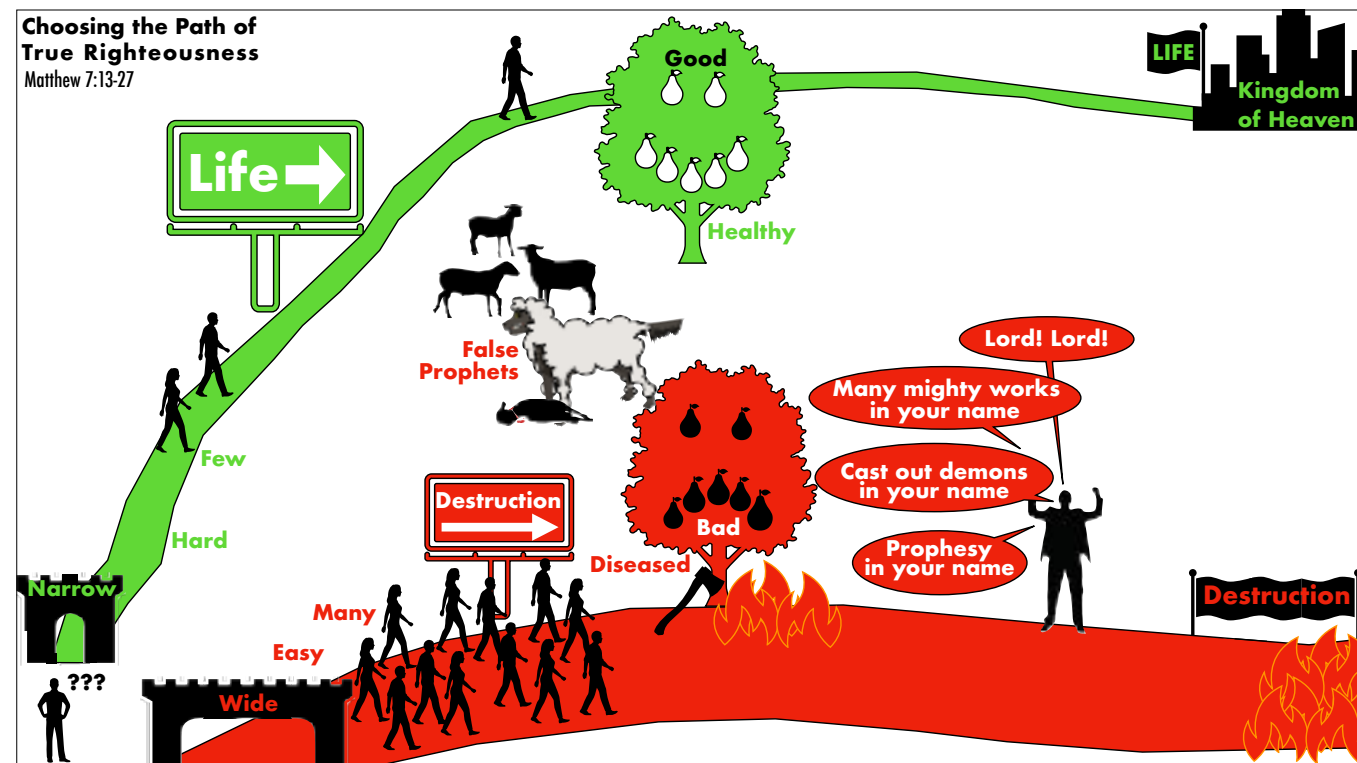
- to assume that ability to do these things is proof of salvation is problem
 - Mt. 24.24 - “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.”
 - 2 Thess. 2.8 - “whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.”



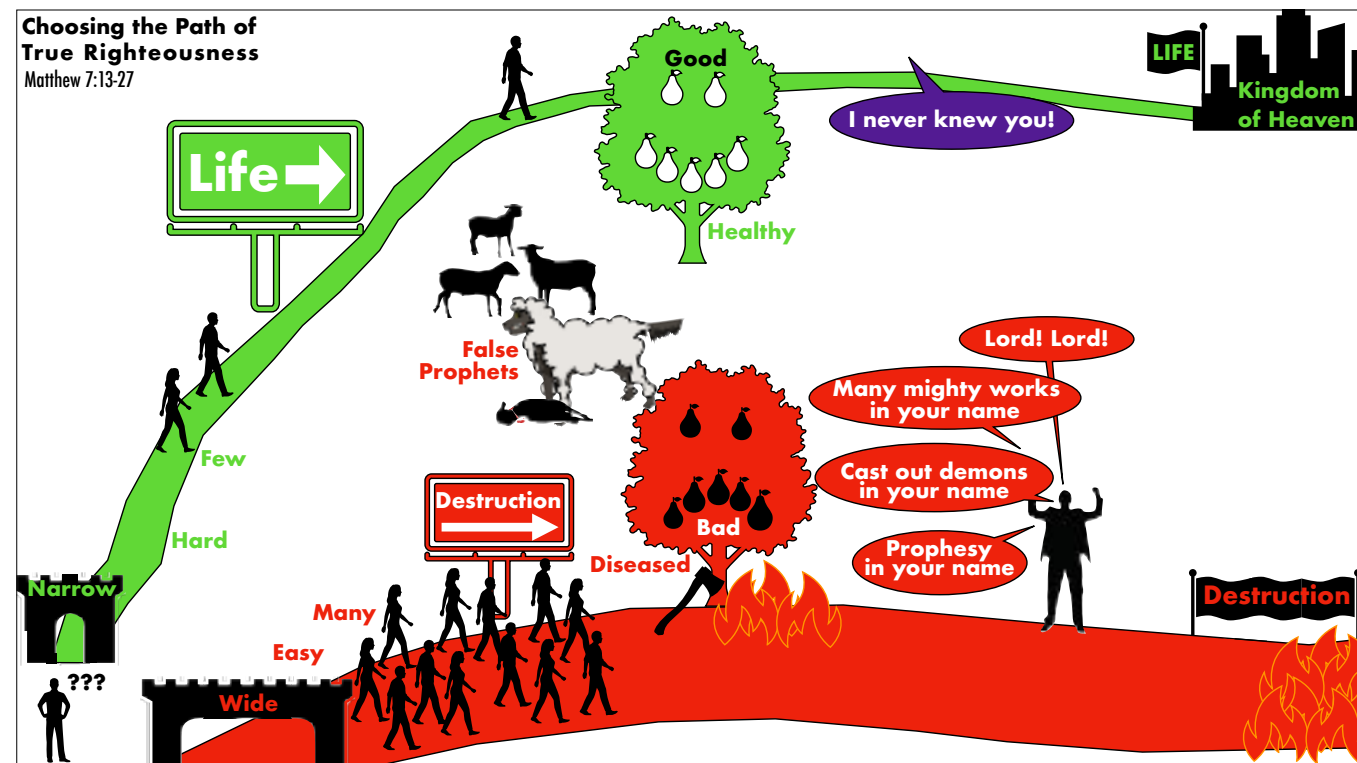
- Today: can be so busy “doing things” (helping others, causes) that we assume we are saved because we are doing these things; but it’s just not true
 - "missions" to build schools, homes, hospitals, treat sick, etc.



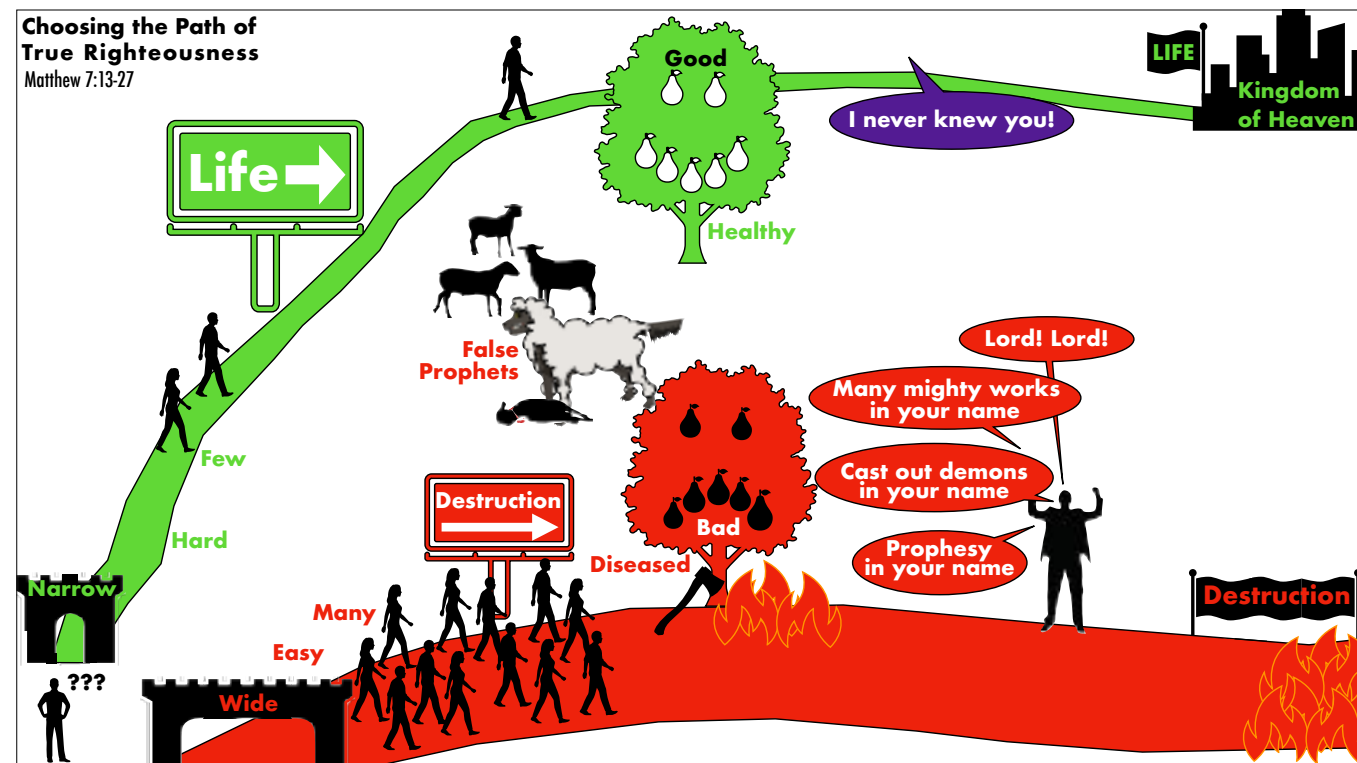
- Because I seem to be getting results, immediate results, spectacular results
 - I feel close to the center of true religion.
 - My success indices are soaring
 - God must be blessing me.
- Lk. 10.20 - “Nevertheless in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you: but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”



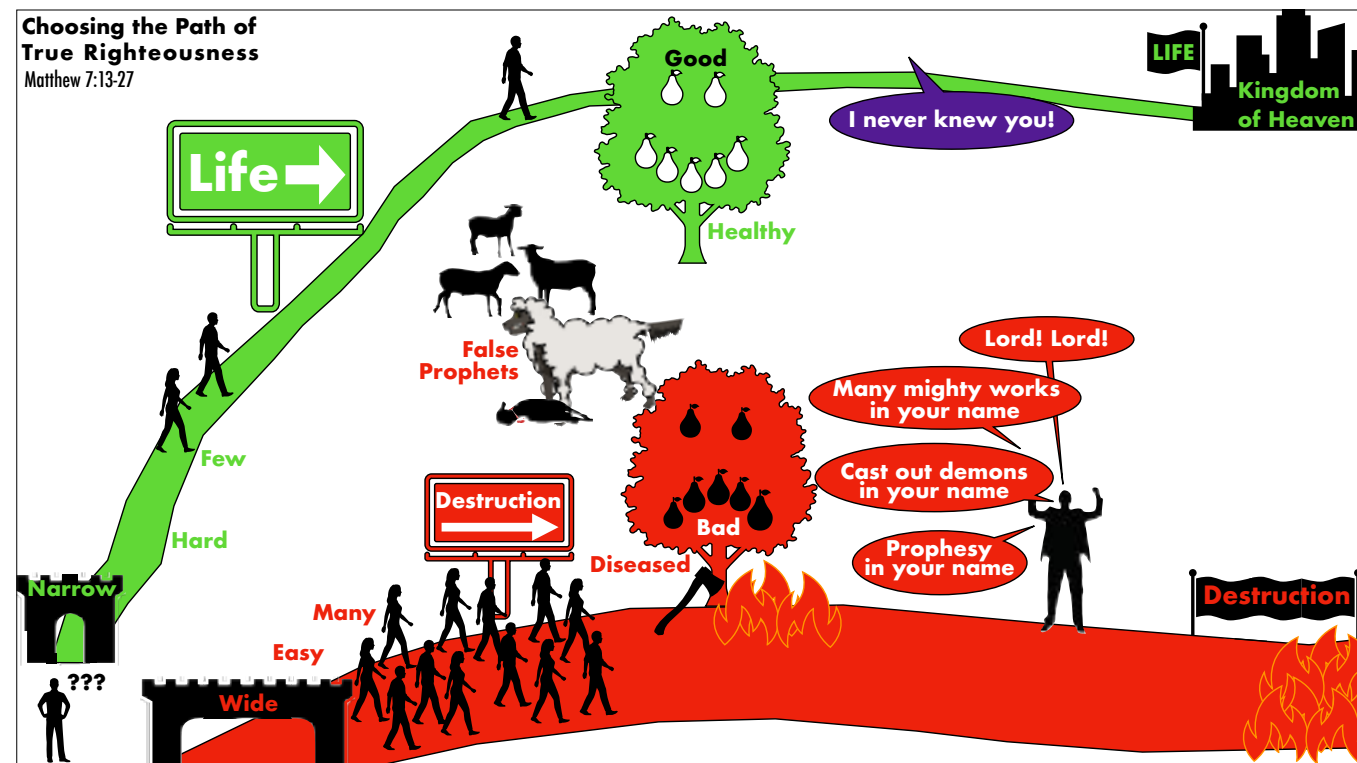
- 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'
- Here is the completely unexpected response from the Father
 - Expect to be congratulated and approved by the Father
 - I believe.
 - I am fervent.
 - I do mighty works.



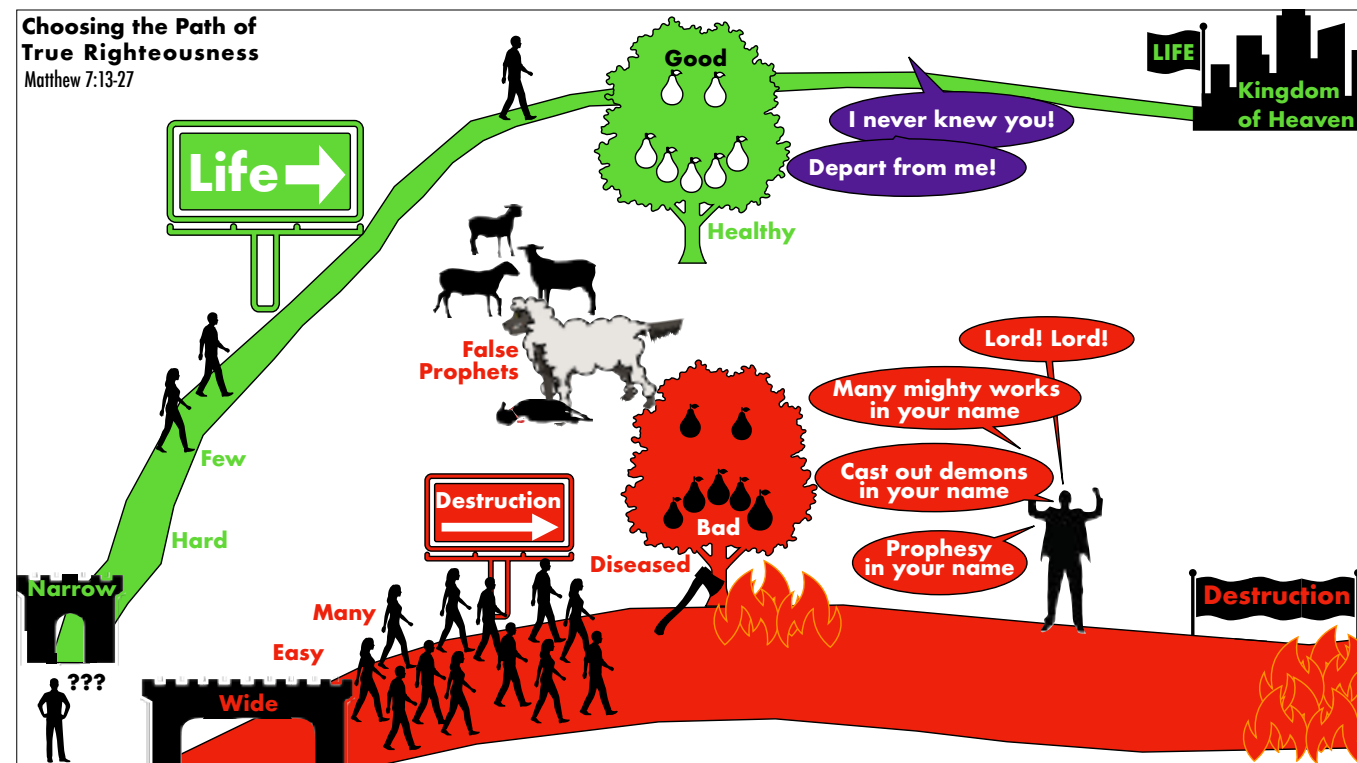
- I never knew you
 - John 10:14: I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
 - John 10:27-28 (ESV) 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.



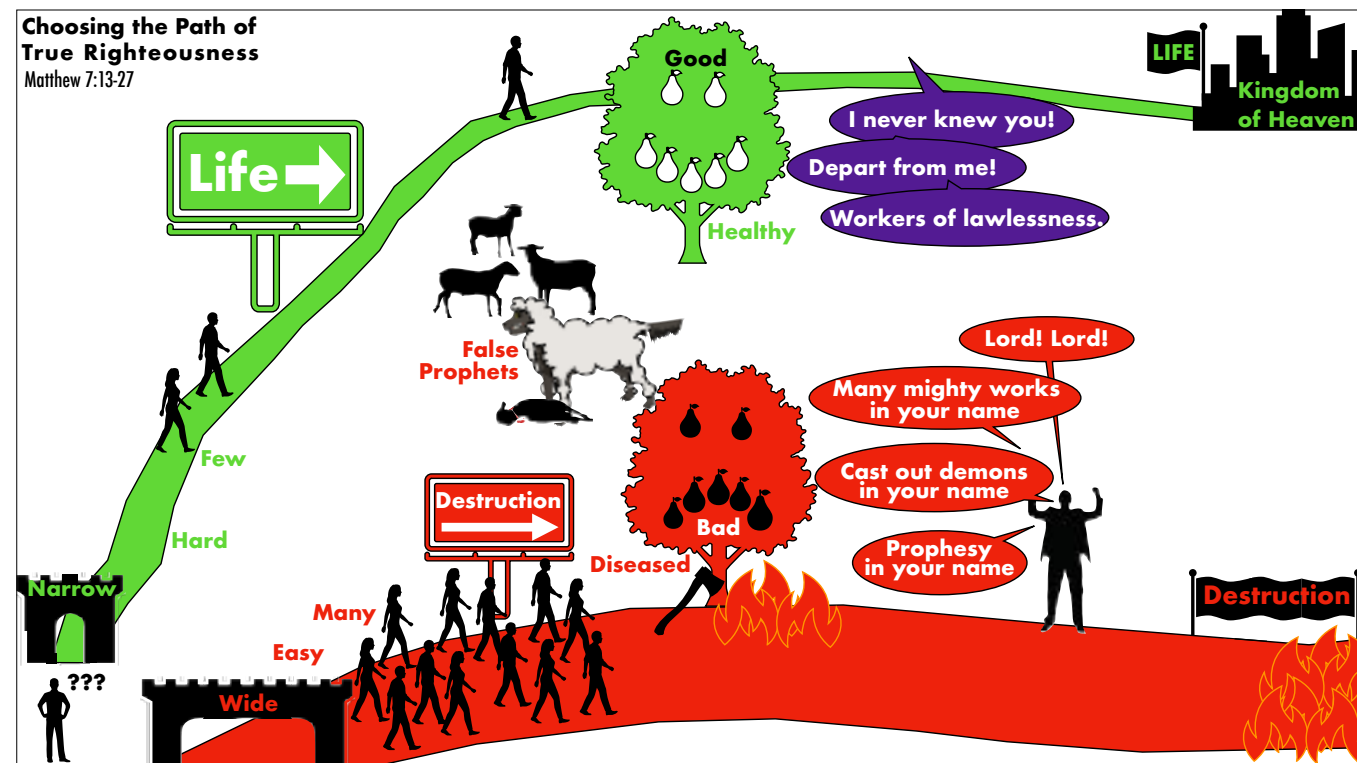
- Galatians 4:8-9 (ESV) 8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?



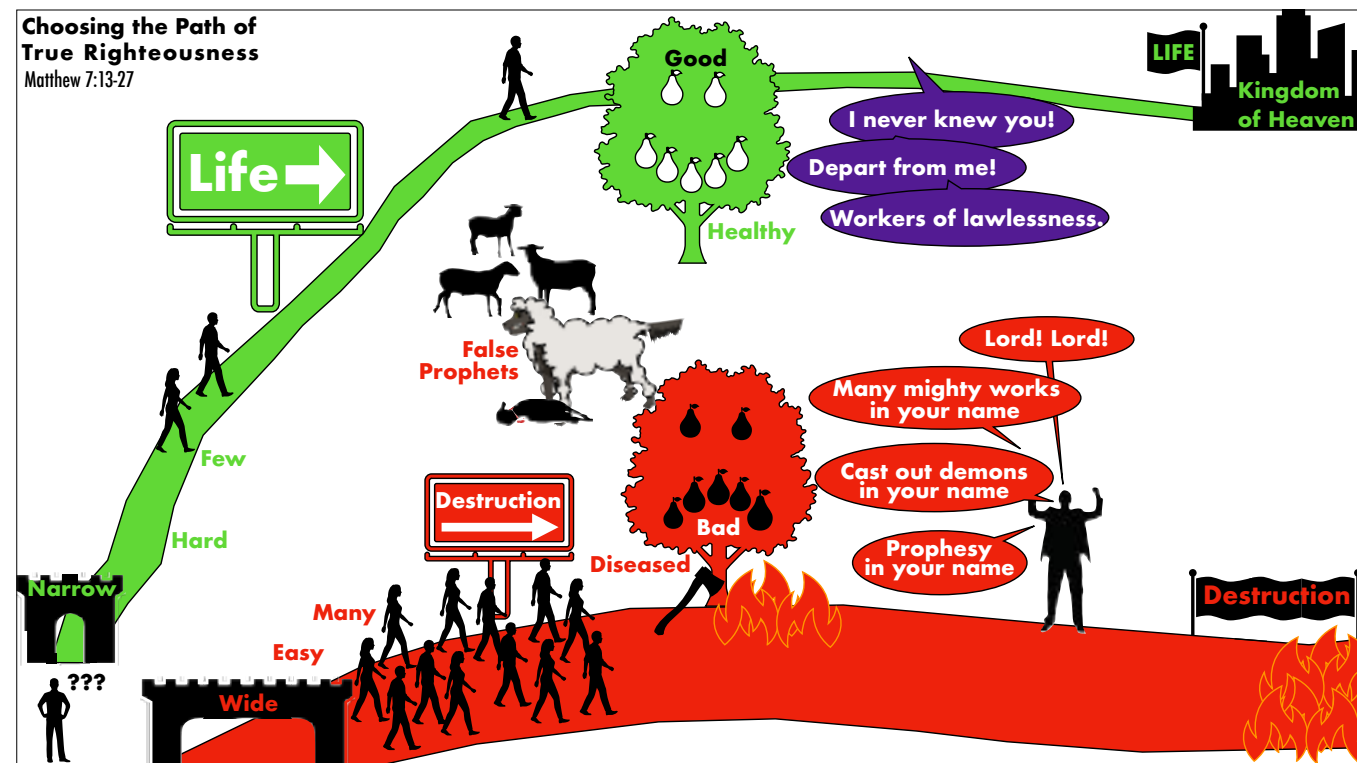
- 2 Tim. 2:19: But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."



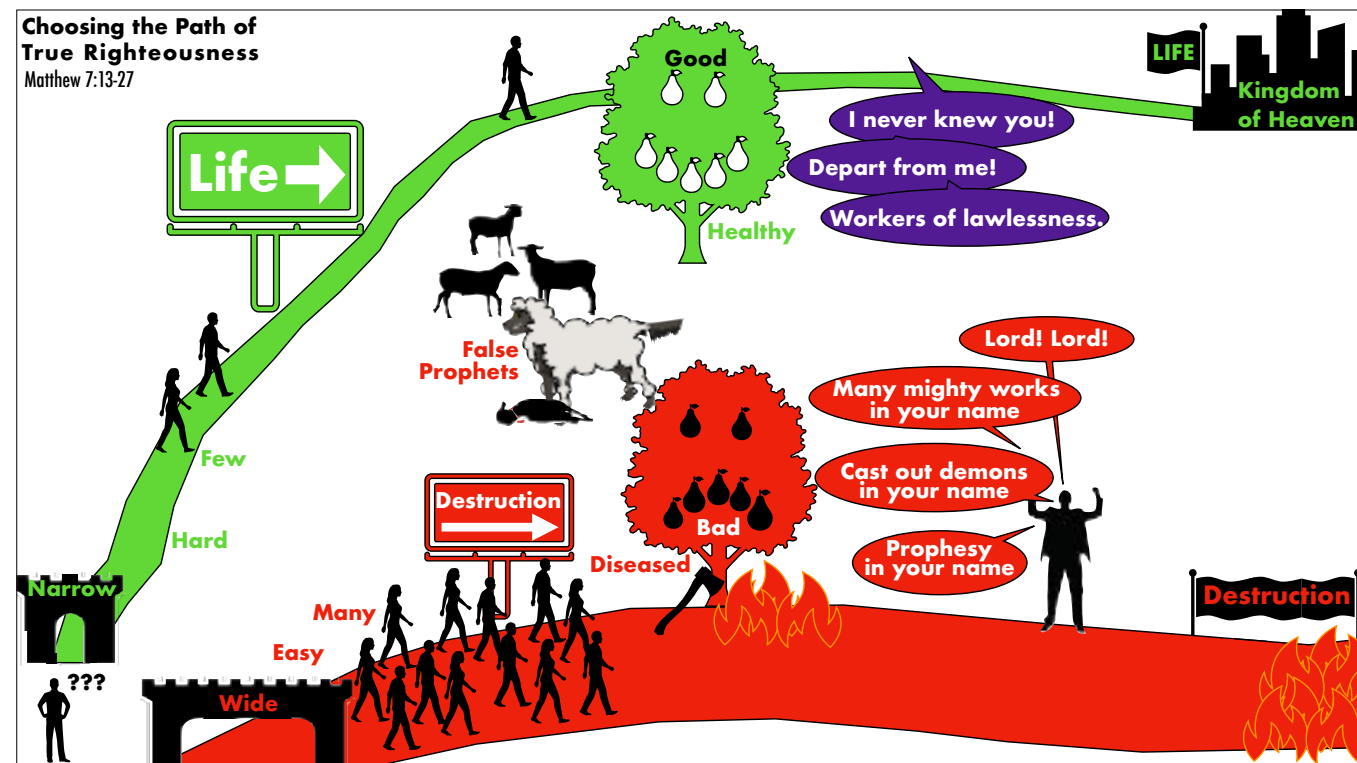
- Depart from me
 - Genesis 3:23-24 (ESV) 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.



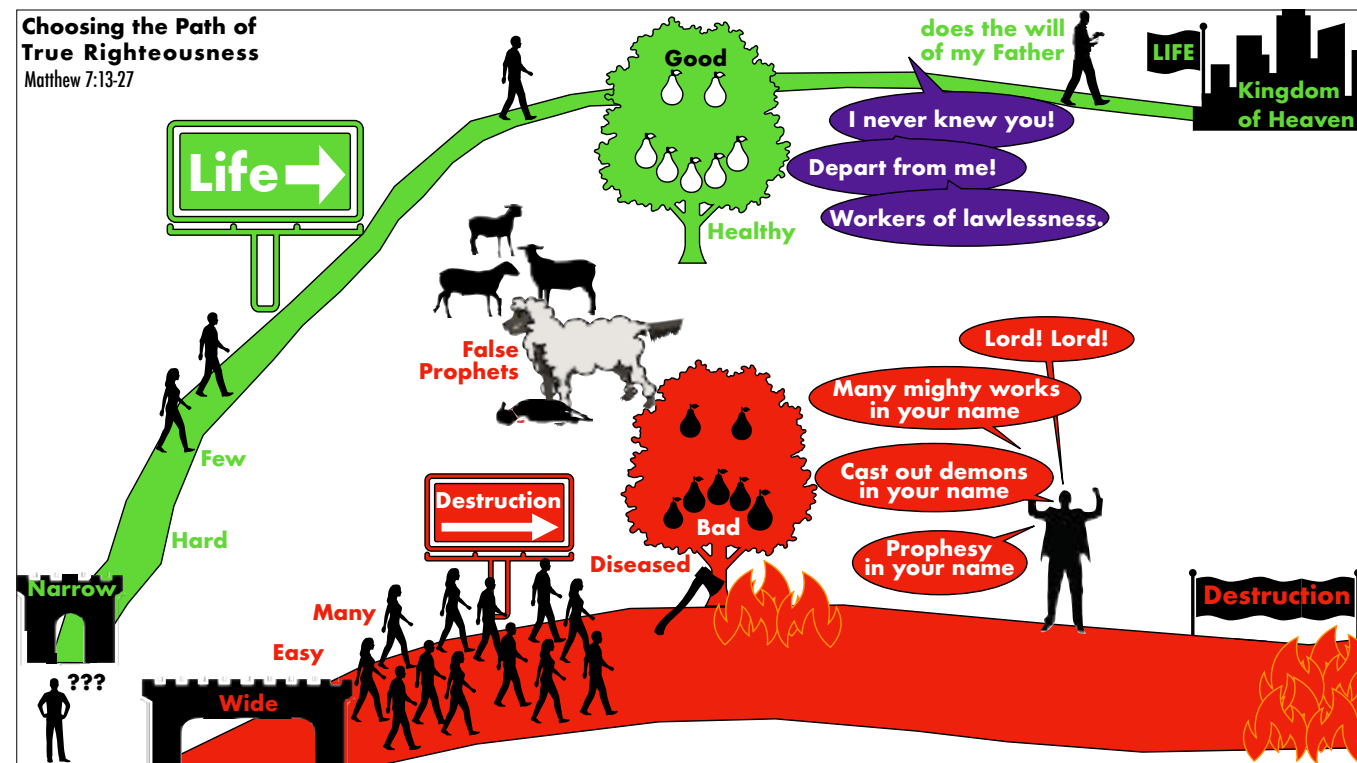
- Workers of Lawlessness
 - Thayer: the condition of without law; because ignorant of it; because of violating it
 - contempt and violation of law, iniquity, wickedness
- These “mighty works” and all the zeal and all the supposed belief
 - Are lawlessness ... SIN.
 - essentially selfish and prideful.



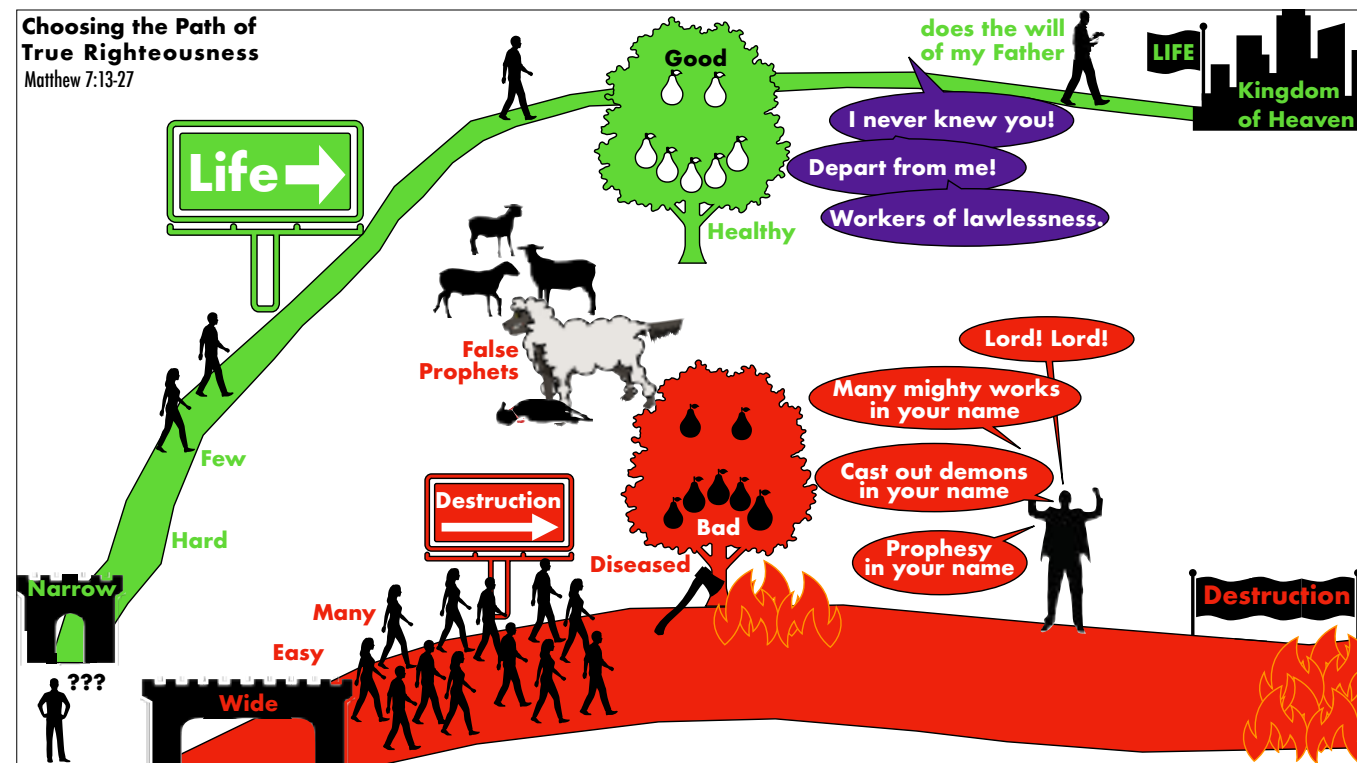
- The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.
- 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning,
 - for God's seed abides in him; and **he cannot keep on sinning**, because he has been born of God.



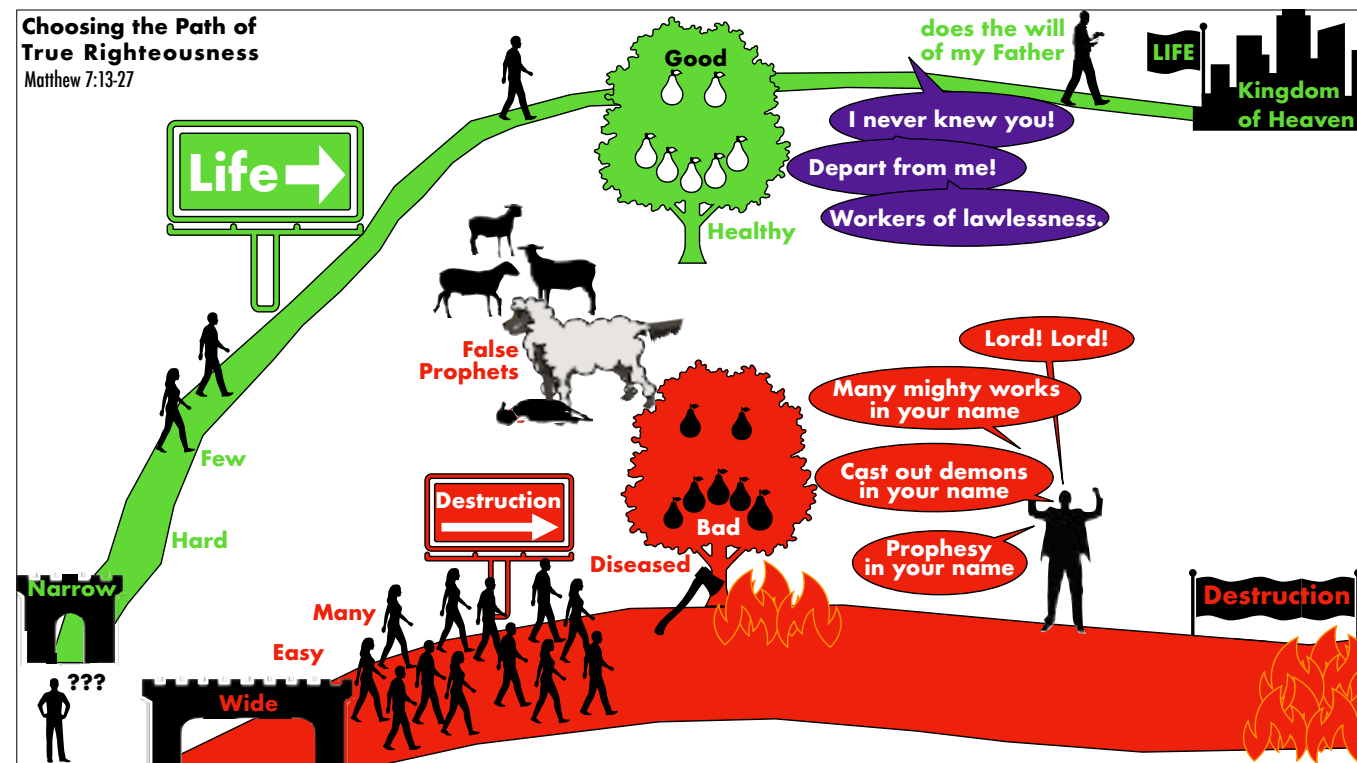
- 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil:
 - whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.



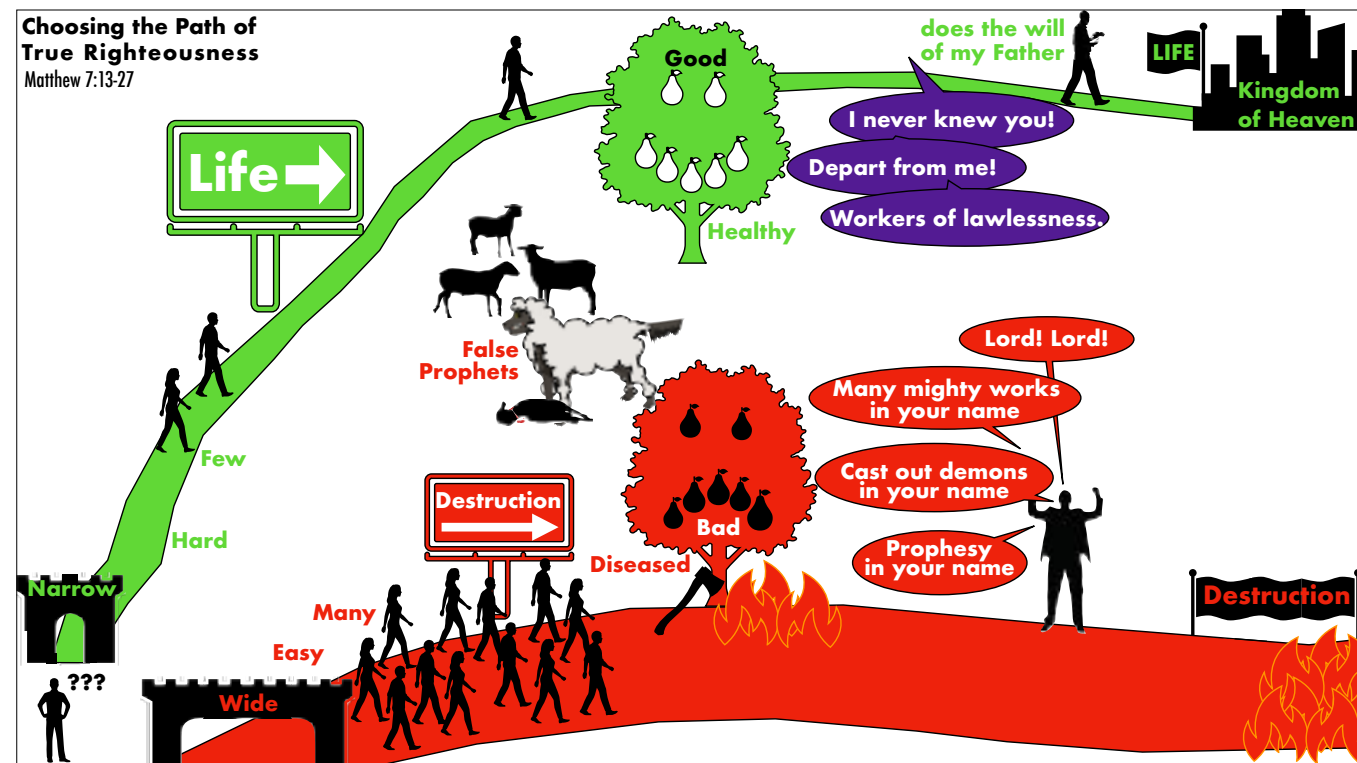
- Does the will of my Father ... will enter the kingdom of heaven.
 - Not... what I think the Father's will is.
 - Not... how I interpret the Father's will.
- Jesus has made it clear, also, that doing the will of God is more than outward compliance to a set of laws.
 - S&P "obeyed", but to be seen by men as righteous...
 - and they have their reward
 - approval of men.
 - So it's not just obedience



- Jesus...obey because...
 - Love Him
 - John 14:15: If you love me, you will keep my commandments.



- Want to be Like Him in all ways.
 - Romans 8:29: For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
 -



- 2 Corinthians 3:18: And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

What do I offer up to my
Father in Heaven?



- What would be my claims offered up to God?



- How am I deluding myself that I am righteous?
 - Micah 6:6-8 With what shall I come before Jehovah, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does Jehovah require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

What do I offer up to my Father in Heaven?

(How might I be deluding myself that I am righteous?)



- Whatever I use in my life to congratulate myself that God must accept me.
 - For many it's "faithfulness" (Just like the S&P!)
 - But what do I mean by faithfulness?
 - Apostle Paul, while persecuting God's people, considered himself faithful!

What do I offer up to my Father in Heaven?

(How might I be deluding myself that I am righteous?)



- For many it's "faithfulness" (Just like the S&P!)
 - Attend every assembly of the church
 - Right position on certain specific issues
 - Baptism is necessary for Salvation
 - A Cappella singing only
 - Belong to the right group (church)
 - Send kids to right college

What do I offer up to my Father in Heaven?

(How might I be deluding myself that I am righteous?)



- Grace
 - I trust implicitly in God's grace.
 - Saved By grace.
- Faith
 - I truly and completely believe in God.

What do I offer up to my Father in Heaven?

(How might I be deluding myself that I am righteous?)



- If you think that you are right before God because you think or do certain things,
 - you can easily fall into this trap of exalting yourself and
 - your own definition of righteousness
 - above that which your Heavenly Father has made clear.

What do I offer up to my Father in Heaven?

(How might I be deluding myself that I am righteous?)



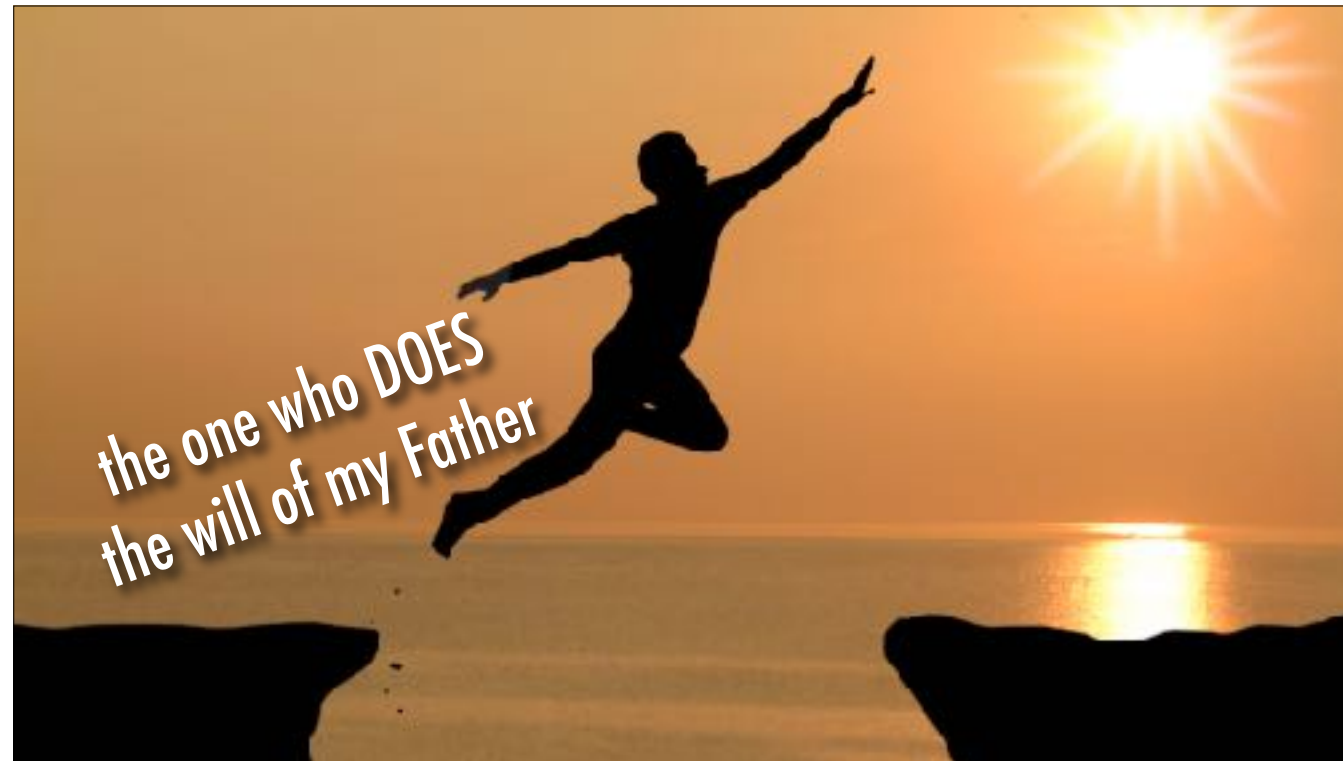
- Even that is a dangerous statement.
 - Too many think that
 - I must have the right heart... like my Heavenly Father.
 - I let my light shine... to the glory of the Father
 - I must practice righteousness...
 - heart in action for helping others
 - Heart seeking Kingdom
 - Heart not presuming on God's role (judging others)

What do I offer up to my Father in Heaven?

(How might I be deluding myself that I am righteous?)



- As long as you are trying to list your accomplishments to the Father...
 - You are trying to exalt your righteousness above His.
 - Humble yourselves!
 - Poor in Spirit.



- the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven
- will enter the kingdom of heaven
- Don't allow yourself to delude yourself.
 - Humble yourself before your loving Father in heaven.
 - Submit yourself to doing His will

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

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the one who DOES the will of my Father

Matthew 7:21-23

Synopsis: On the path of life, another danger we face is that of self-delusion. Jesus warns us that we must not convince ourselves that God must approve of us because we believe, we are zealous, or because we do many works. The one who does the will of the Father will enter the kingdom, and Jesus has taught us in this sermon what that means.

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