

September 22, 2024

Life or Loss

Matthew 7: 13-29

Sermon On The Mount

Conclusion





Binary Pairs	Description	Description
Gates	Wide	Narrow
Paths	Easy	Hard
Prophets	FALSE	True (implied)
Trees	Diseased	Healthy
Fruit	Bad	Good
Builders	Foolish	Wise
Foundations	Sand	Rock
Outcomes	Collapse	Stability

Matthew 7:13-28 ESV

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

1. Choose the correct path



Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NLT

“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him.

2. Don't follow rotten advice



Jeremiah 23: 16, 18, 21 NLT

“Do not listen to these prophets when they prophesy to you, filling you with futile hopes.

They are making up everything they say.

They do not speak for the LORD!

“Have any of these prophets been in the LORD’s presence to hear what he is really saying?

Has even one of them cared enough to listen?

“I have not sent these prophets,
yet they run around claiming to speak for me.



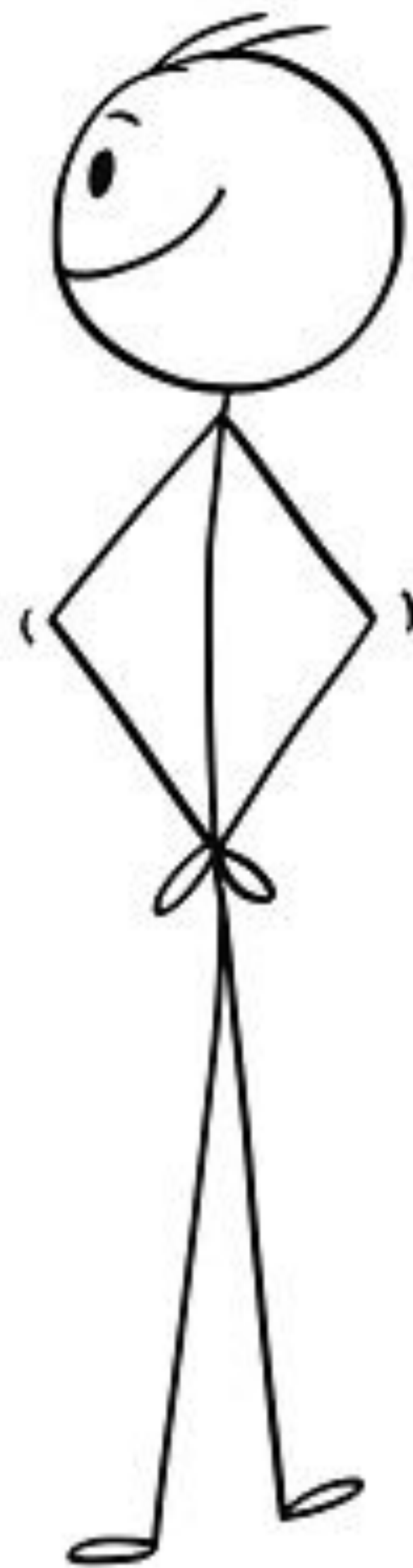
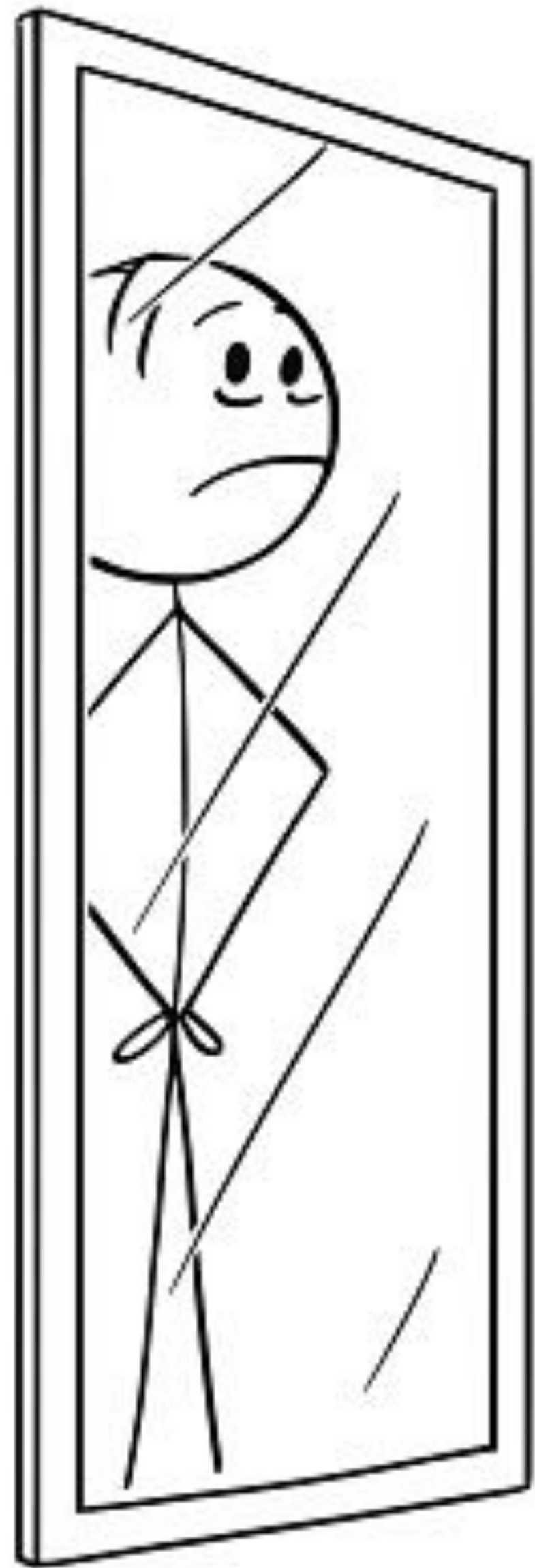
TRUE



FALSE









A word cloud of positive adjectives. The words are arranged in a roughly triangular shape, with the largest word, 'Intelligent', at the bottom center. Other prominent words include 'Strong', 'Talented', 'Determined', 'Honest', 'Generous', 'Brave', 'Reliable', 'Powerful', 'Elegant', 'Ambitious', 'Kind', 'Fighter', 'Outspoken', 'Practical', 'Uncompromising', 'Self-made', 'Humble', 'Sexy', 'Underdog', 'Beautiful', 'Carefree', 'Good', and 'Rich'. The colors range from purple and blue to green, orange, and red.

Uncompromising Self-made
Kind Ambitious Rich Honest Generous Humble Brave
Fighter Ambitious Rich Honest Generous Humble Brave
Reliable Strong
Talented Sexy Underdog Powerful Beautiful
Intelligent Carefree Elegant
Outspoken Good Determined
Practical





Jeremiah 17:9-10 NLT

“The human heart is the most deceitful of all things,
and desperately wicked.

Who really knows how bad it is?

But I, the LORD, search all hearts
and examine secret motives.

I give all people their due rewards,
according to what their actions deserve.”

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
Point out anything in me that offends you,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Jeremiah 23:38-39 NLT

‘This is what the LORD says: Because you have used this phrase, “prophecy from the LORD,” even though I warned you not to use it, I will forget you completely. I will expel you from my presence,

3. Build wisely







Matthew 7:24-29 MSG

These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock.

“But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.”

When Jesus concluded his address, the crowd burst into applause. They had never heard teaching like this. It was apparent that he was living everything he was saying—quite a contrast to their religion teachers! This was the best teaching they had ever heard.

