

Parables of Jesus #7

Matthew 7:13-29 – The Gate, the
Fruit, and the Builders



1. The Gate

Matthew 7:13-14 *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*



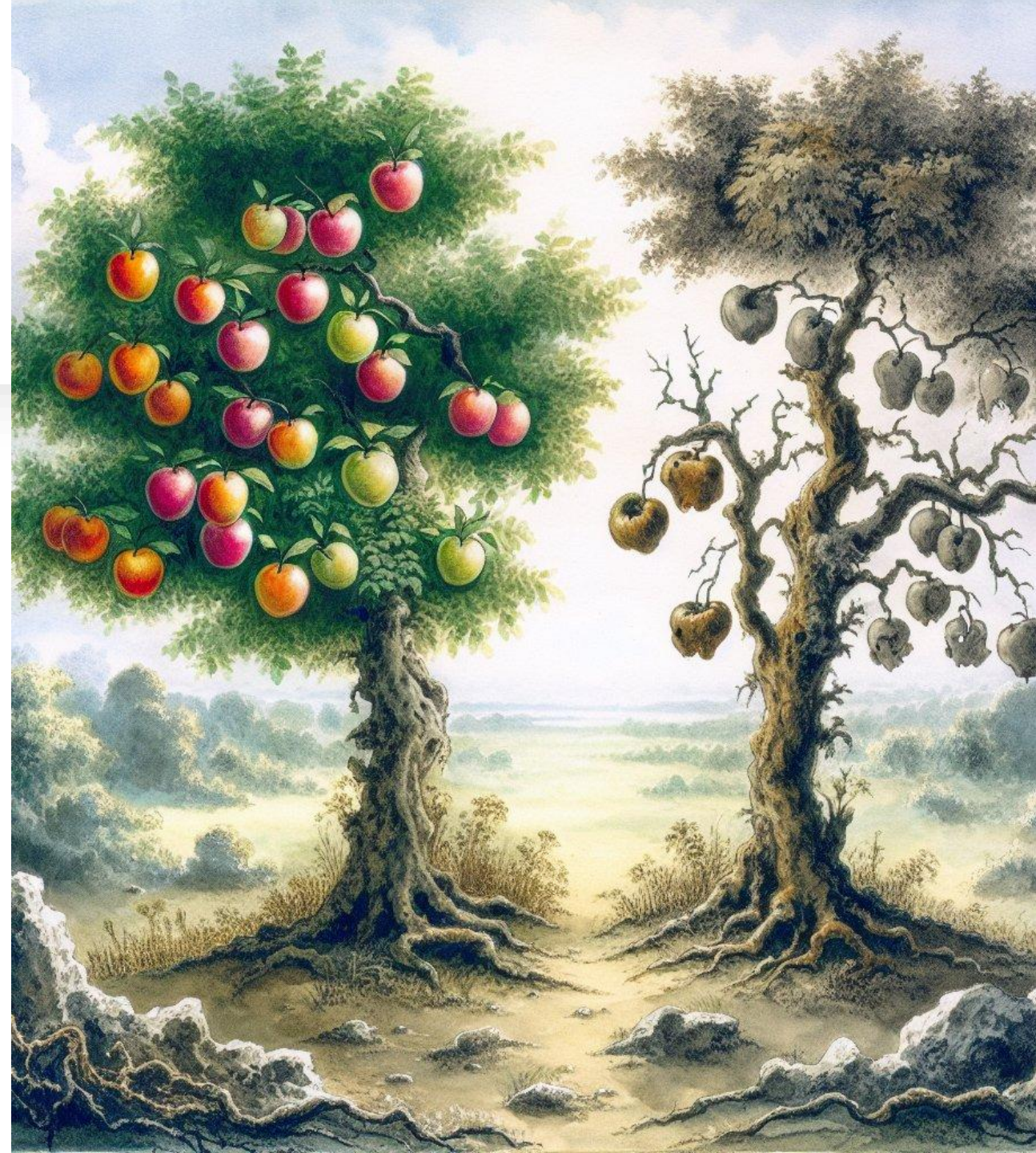
2. The Fruit

Matthew 7:15-17 *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.”*



2. The Fruit

- This is group discernment over naivety
- Who are you listening to?
- Does the fruit match Christ's message?



2. The Fruit

Matthew 7:21 *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven”*

- Move from “information” to “formation”
- Move from ritual to relationship

3. The Builders

Matthew 7:24-27 *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

3. The Builders

- Life will test us.
- How you stand in the test depends on your foundation.
- Jesus' bold statement:
"anyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice... has built His house on a rock"



3. The Builders

Matthew 16:15-16 *“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”*

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:18 *And I tell you that you are Peter (a small rock / pebble) and on this rock (massive rock / boulder) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

3. The Builders

Temptation comes from:

- The world (secular culture)
- The flesh (natural desire to sin)
- The devil (accuser, deceiver, liar)
- The promise: You CAN overcome (v18) if you listen to, and put into practice, Jesus' teaching.