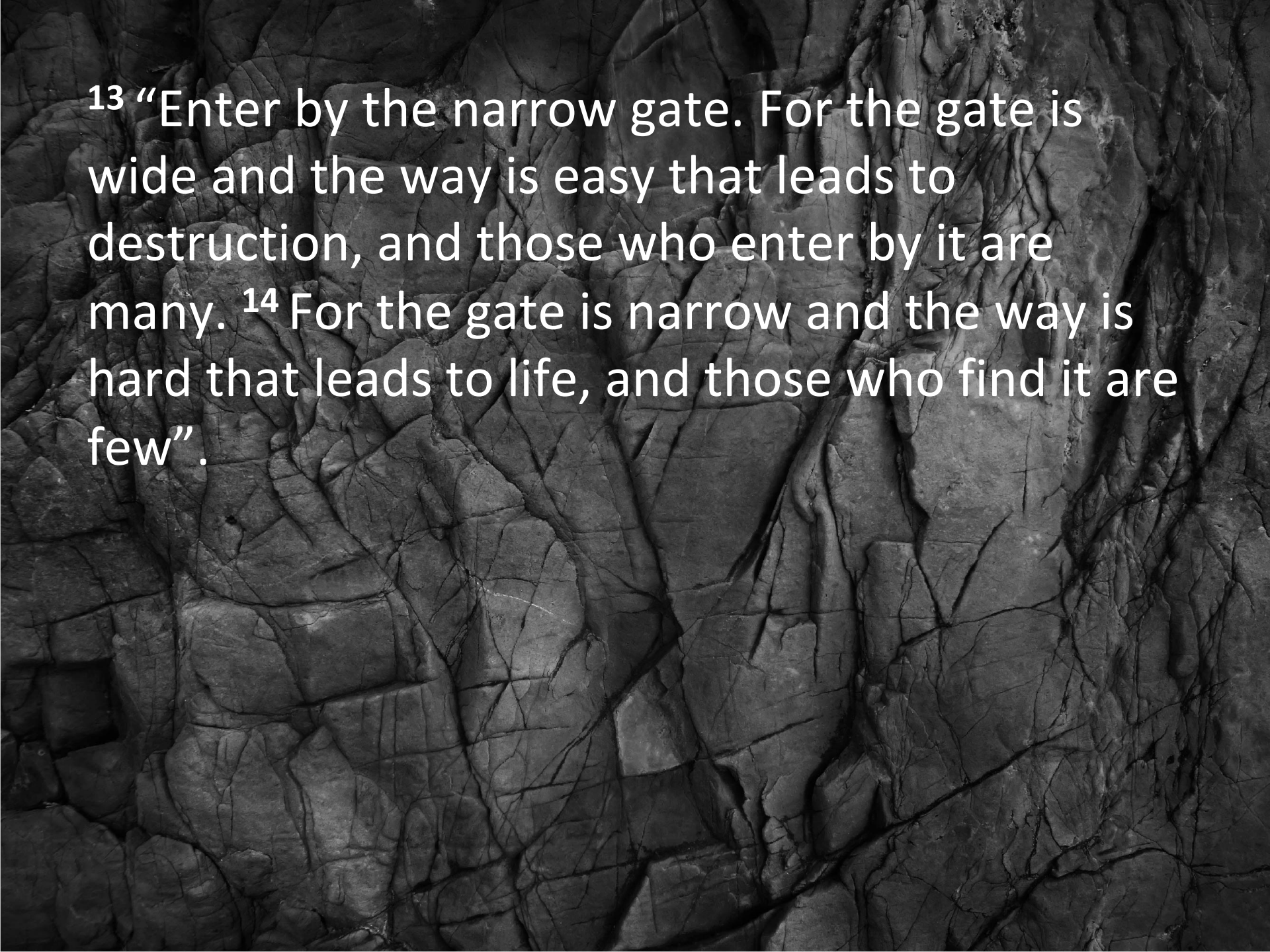# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

UNDERSTANDING WHAT JESUS WANTS HIS FOLLOWERS TO BE AND TO DO

Week 11

A Christian's Choices.

13 "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. **14** For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few".

15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **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".

A Christian's Choices.

I. **Two** gates and roads that lead to two **destinations**.

Matthew 7:13-14 ESV
[13] "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. [14] For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few".

The two types of gates and roads.

  - Wide and **Broad.**

    - Easy

    - Many people walk it.

The two types of gates and roads.

- Wide and **Broad**.

- Easy
- Many people walk it.

- Small and **Narrow**.

- Hard
- Few find it.

The two **destinations** .

- Destruction
  Hell and **separation** from God.

The two **destinations** .

- Destruction
  Hell and **separation** from God.

- Life
  Heaven and **intimacy** with God.

II. Two prophets that are revealed by two types of fruit.

Matthew 7:15 ESV
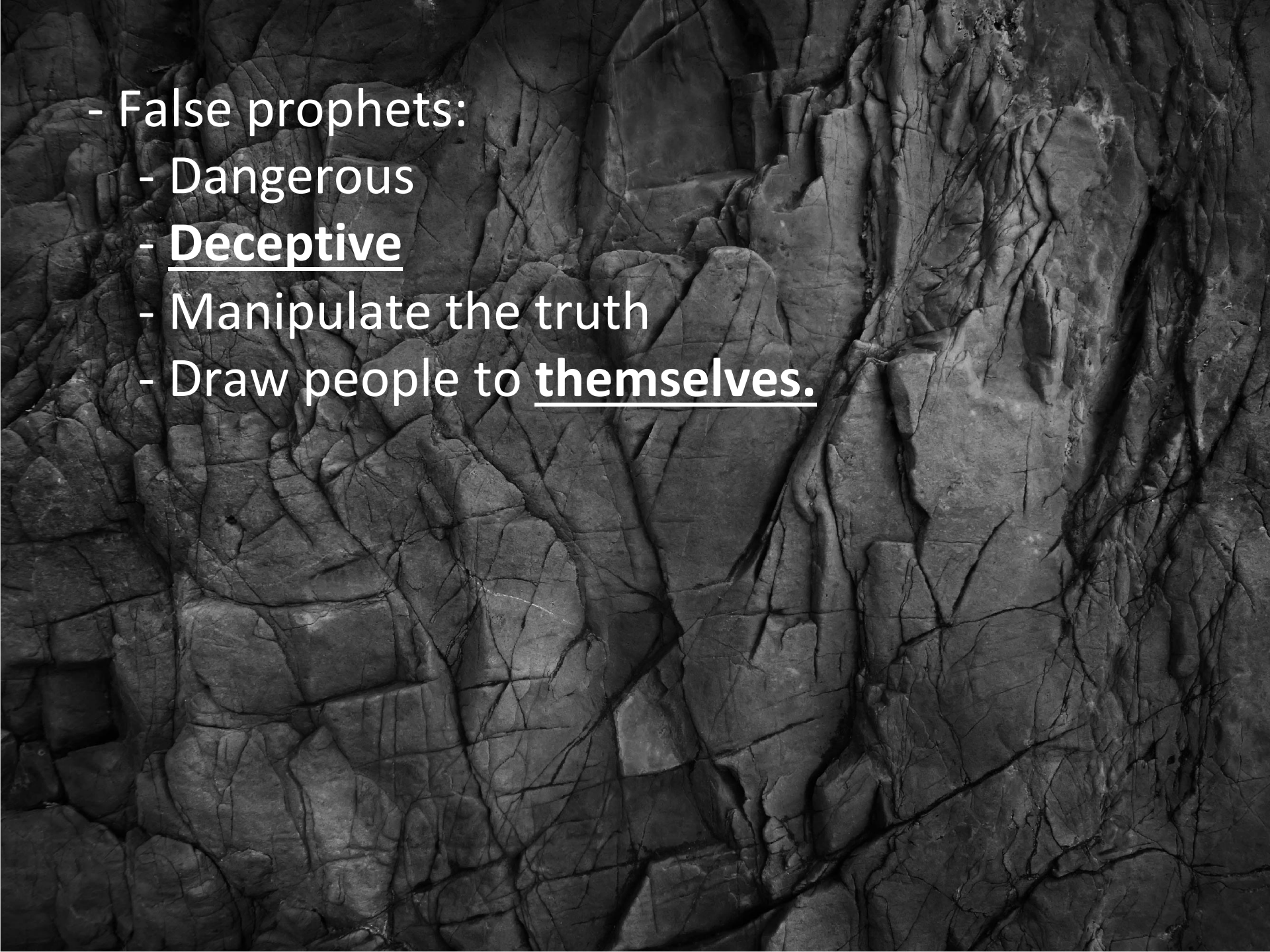"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves".

- False prophets:
  - Dangerous

- False prophets:
  - Dangerous
  - **<u>Deceptive</u>**

- False prophets:
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  - Manipulate the truth

- False prophets:
  - Dangerous
  - **<u>Deceptive</u>**
  - Manipulate the truth
  - Draw people to **<u>themselves.</u>**

Acts 20:29-30 NRSV

[29] I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. [30] Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them.

- Amoral <u>Optimism.</u>

Jeremiah 23:14,16-17 ESV
"But in the prophets of Jerusalem
     I have seen a horrible thing:
they commit adultery and walk in lies;
     they strengthen the hands of evildoers,
     so that no one turns from his evil;
all of them have become like Sodom to me,
     and its inhabitants like Gomorrah."

16 Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. **17** They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"

- True prophets

  - Speaks **God's** truth.

- True prophets

- Speaks **God's** truth.
- Sacrificial

- True prophets

   - Speaks **God's** truth.
   - Sacrificial
   - Servant

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.

To recognize their fruit, we should pay attention to:

- how they live.

To recognize their fruit, we should pay attention to:

- how they live.

- the **content** of their teaching.

To recognize their fruit, we should pay attention to:

- how they live.

- the **content** of their teaching.

- the **effect** of their teaching.

Jesus commands us to start by looking at **ourselves** so…what type of **tree** are you and what type of **fruit** are you producing?