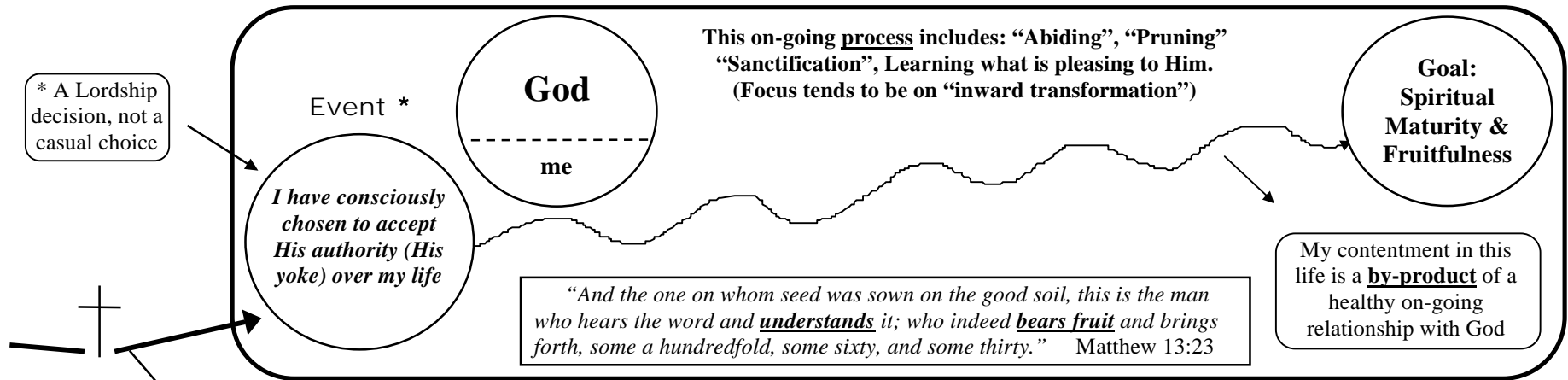


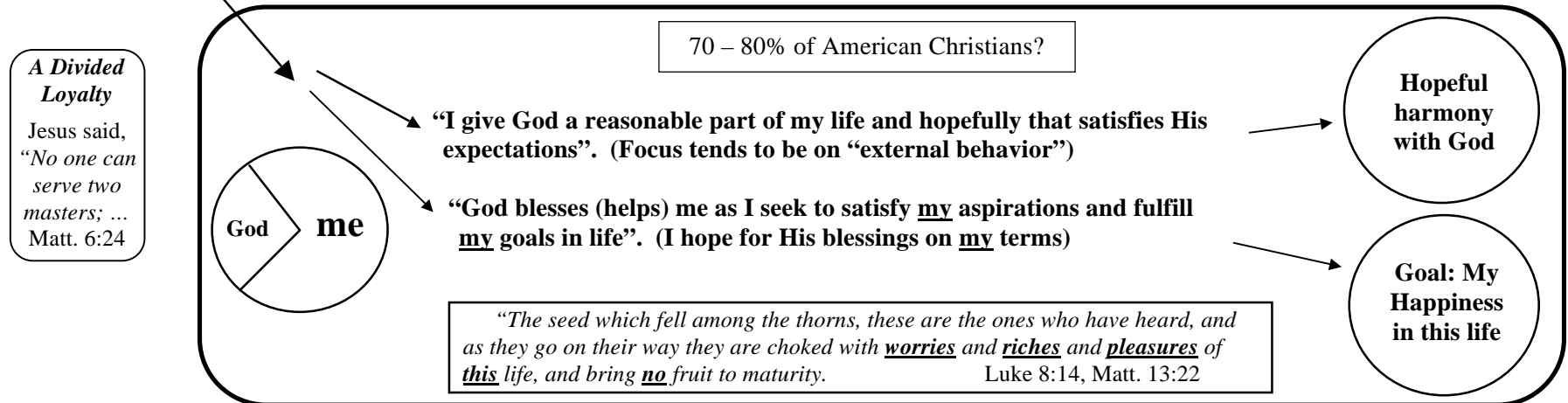
THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS DIVIDED INTO TWO DIFFERENT CAMPS

THE "NORMAL" CHRISTIAN LIFE (God is my "Master")



King David is an O.T. example

THE "ABNORMAL" CHRISTIAN LIFE (God is my "Partner")



King Saul is an O.T. example

LESSON GUIDE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS LESSON IS:

- To present the concept of there being two camps within the Christian community.
- To contrast a "spiritual" disposition with a "self-dependent" disposition (see also Proverbs 3:5-6).
- To change the focus of attention from "outward behavior" to "inward transformation".

1. The objective of this lesson is to lay a foundation for the concept of the Christian community being divided into two camps, the main difference being that of an **disposition** / **attitude** toward the authority (Lordship) of Jesus in a Christian's life.
2. Most Christians perceive that there is a divided authority, with God governing in some areas while the Christian has authority over other areas, and that it is the Christian's right, or privilege, to decide over what areas God should rule. The problem arises in that Jesus stated clearly that there can only be **one** master in a Christian's life. (Matt. 6:24)
3. Unless a Christian is taught otherwise, the natural tendency is for him/her to assume authority over their life, while granting to God limited "spiritual" areas.
4. Many churches and Christians convey to new believers that the relinquishing of authority over their life (accepting His yoke) is a long process rather than a **one-time** conscious choice. The problem with the idea of presenting Lordship as a process is that it results in the Christian, often unknowingly, assuming that their own priorities have a rightful place of supremacy over God's priorities. There is a long-term daily aspect of surrender, just as marriage partners need to daily reinforce their initial vow.
5. The discipler needs to discern how the disciple (apprentice) perceives God's authority over his life. Christians who have acknowledged Christ's Lordship over their life will often be able to identify the approximate time and circumstances surrounding that **event**. The reason for this is that the choice to accept His rightful authority is **not** a casual decision.
6. A Christian needs to understand that God's stated ownership is an **absolute**, which is not at all dependent on the believer's acceptance or acknowledgment of it. An acceptance or acknowledgment of what God says is truth simply removes a major obstacle to God using and blessing the Christian in the way He desires. To reject His Lordship is to usurp authority that is not theirs. Jesus asked, "*why do you call Me Lord and don't do what I tell you?*" (Luke 6:46).
7. The Christian who tries to serve two masters (God and himself) has a **divided loyalty** (double minded), attempting to satisfy God while at the same time perceiving God as someone who will help them to achieve their goals and aspirations in this life.
8. King Saul is an Old Testament example of a believer who was unwilling to surrender his **will** to God, but rather chose to rely on his human understanding (self-dependence). In stark contrast King David is an example of a believer who accepted God's authority over his life. Obviously David was guilty of grave sins, yet God testifies of his disposition of submission in Acts 13:22. King Saul's sins may not outwardly seem as grievous to man, yet God's disapproval is very evident, due to Saul's unwillingness to accept His authority. **KING SAUL'S PROBLEM WAS ONE OF THE WILL (LORDSHIP), WHILE KING DAVID'S WAS ONE OF BEHAVIOR.**
9. Each believer will either perceive himself as a servant to God, or he will perceive God as a helper/partner to him.

Maturity has to be factored in also.

A CHRISTIAN MAY BE SPIRITUAL, YET IMMATURE.