

A Lifestyle of Service:

*Giving God
the First Fruits*



Review: The Heart of Service

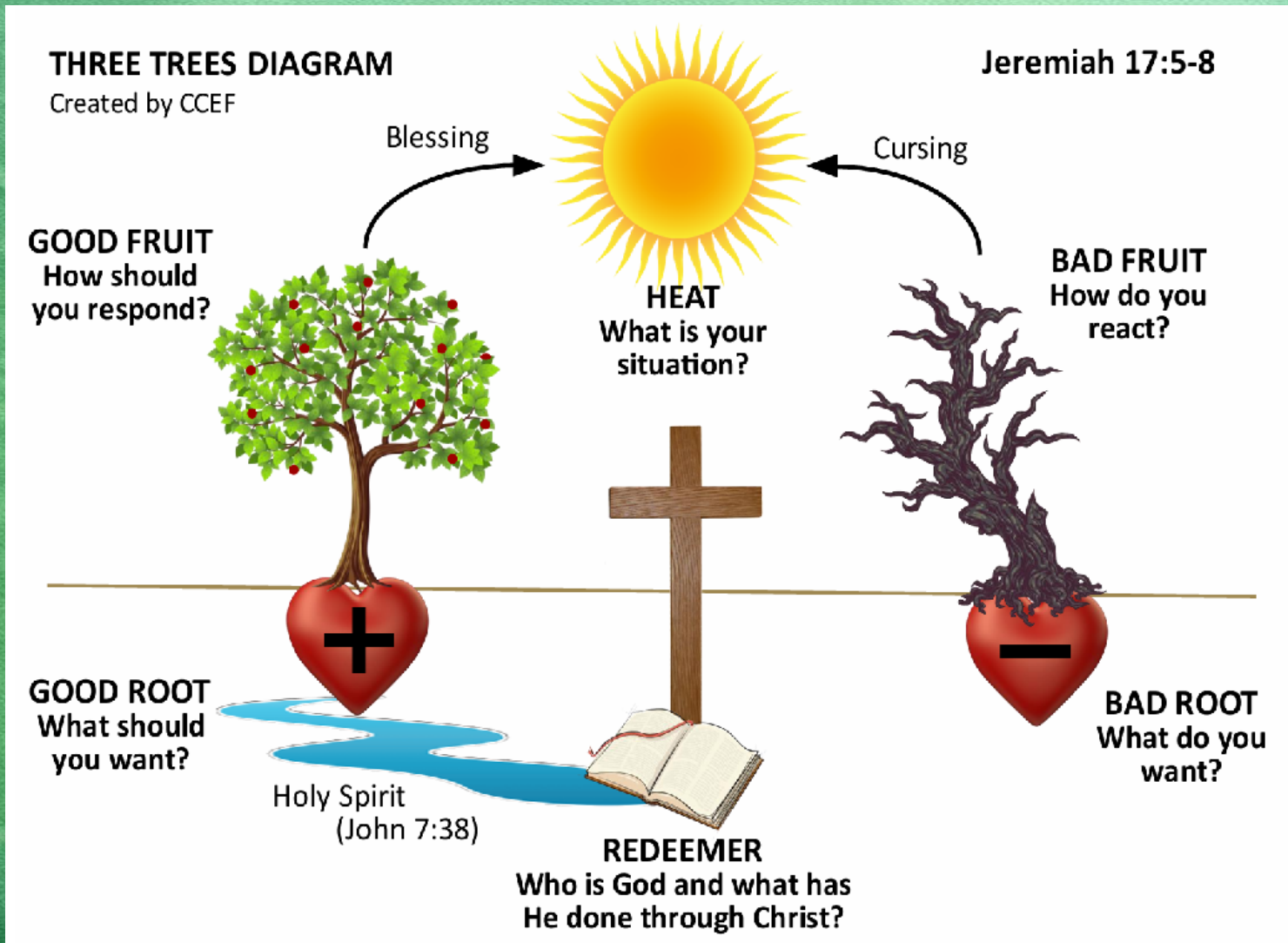
- Obedience
- Gratitude
- Gladness
- Forgiveness
- Humility
- Love

Vegetation or Thorns?

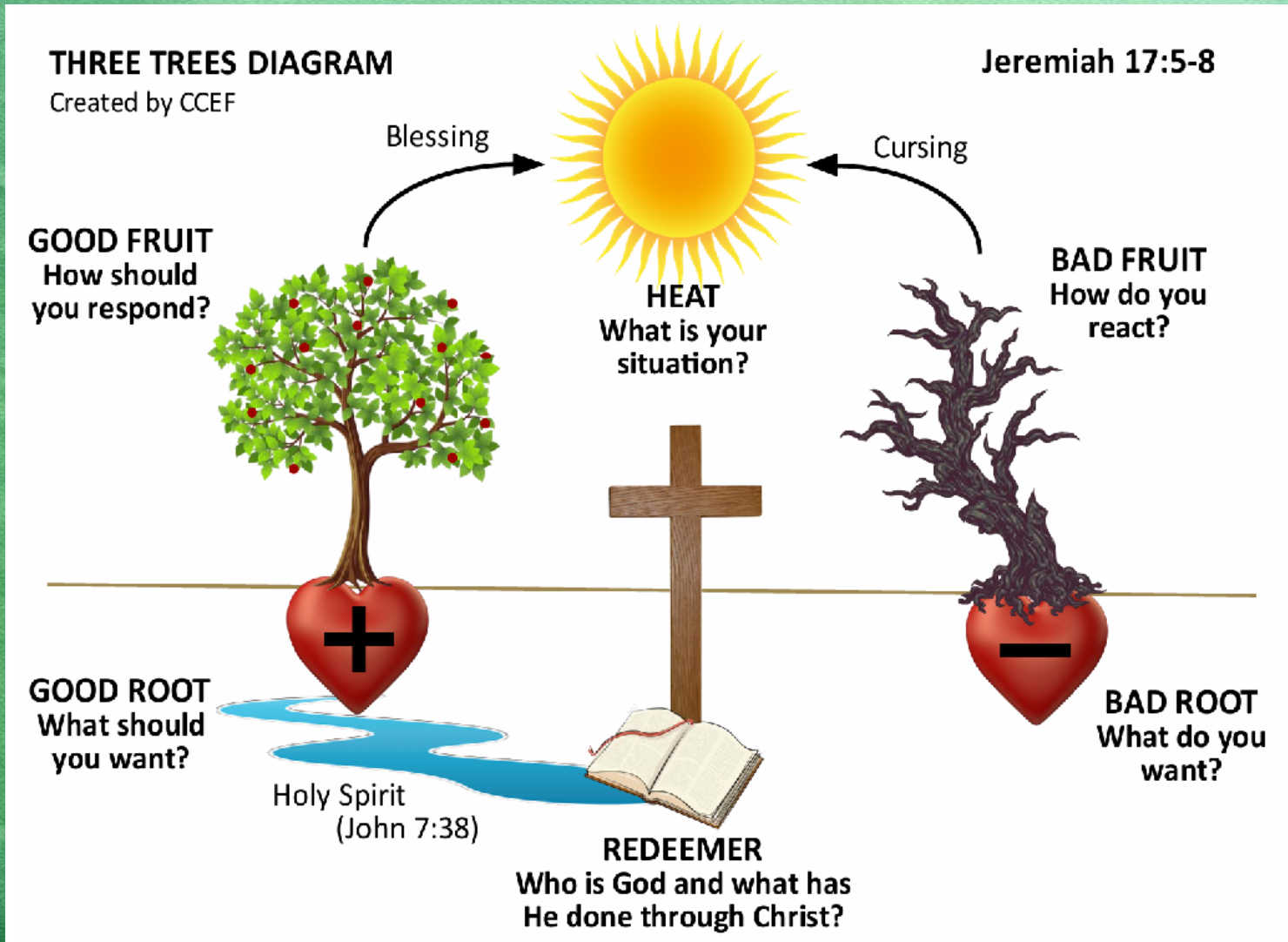
- Hebrews 6:7-8



Vegetation or Thorns?



Vegetation or Thorns?



Always serving something...
what are you serving?

- Pitfall 1: Only fruit, no root
- Pitfall 2: Only root, no fruit

ROOT AND FRUIT



What is the fruit? What does it mean to serve?

- Not simply a list of good deeds
- Rather: a heart for God put into action

Spiritual Service of Worship

- Service is a sacrifice!
- Service is your offering!
- Gifts defined (v3-13)
- Col. 3:17 – whatever you do

Sacrifices To God

Hebrews 13:15–16

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess His name.

And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

First Fruits

- Exodus 23
- Leviticus 23
- Deuteronomy 26
- Proverbs 3:9-10



First Fruits

- Genesis 4:1-8 – Cain and Abel

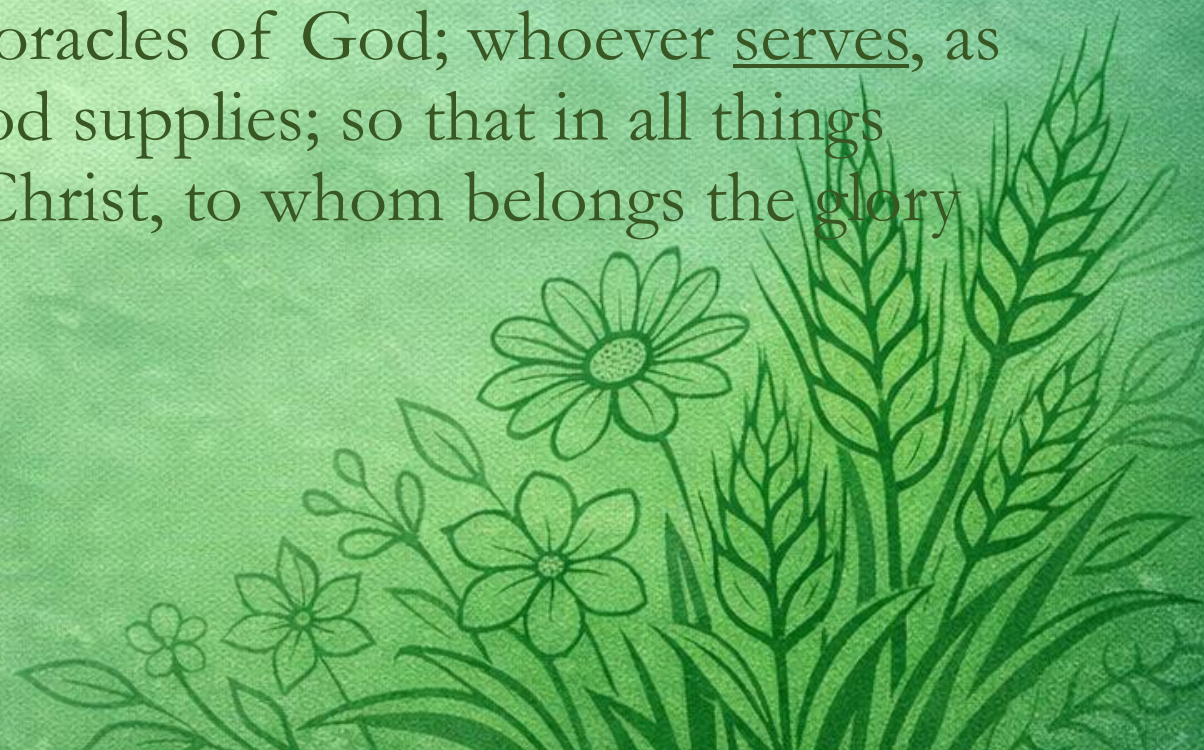


The Gifts of Service

1 Peter 4:10-11

As each one has received a gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God—

whoever speaks, as one speaking the oracles of God; whoever serves, as one serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and might forever and ever. Amen.



The Stewardship of Service

God equips and enables believers with the privilege of serving Him.

- Matthew 25:21 – Talents and stewardship



The Little Things

Service grows through small, consistent acts of love.

- Luke 16:10 – faithful in a very little thing



Body Life

Ephesians 4:11-16

Some as Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers

FOR: equipping the saints for the work of service

TO: the building up of the body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12



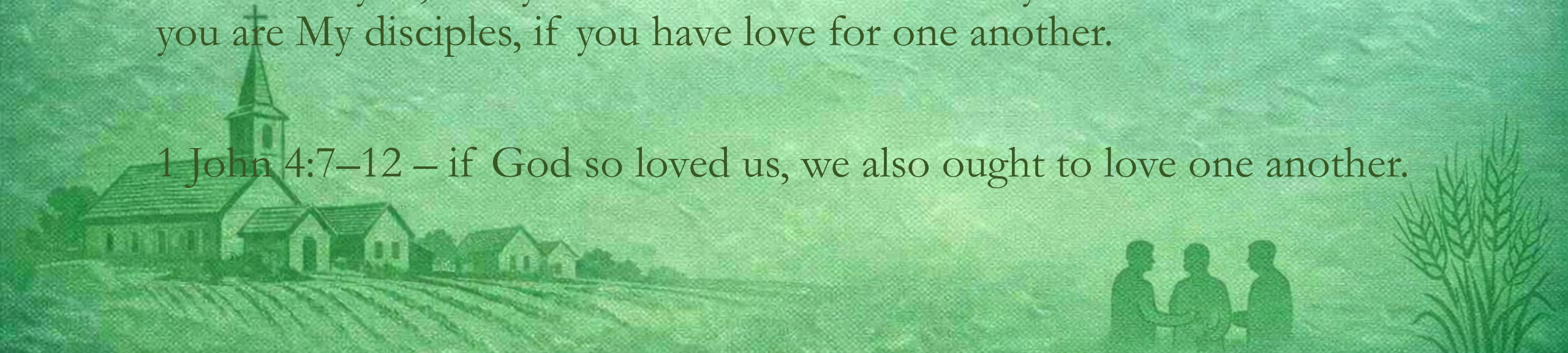
1. Love one another

Service reflects the gospel by displaying Christlike love.

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

1 John 4:7-12 – if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.



2. Spiritual encouragement

Hebrews 3:12-13

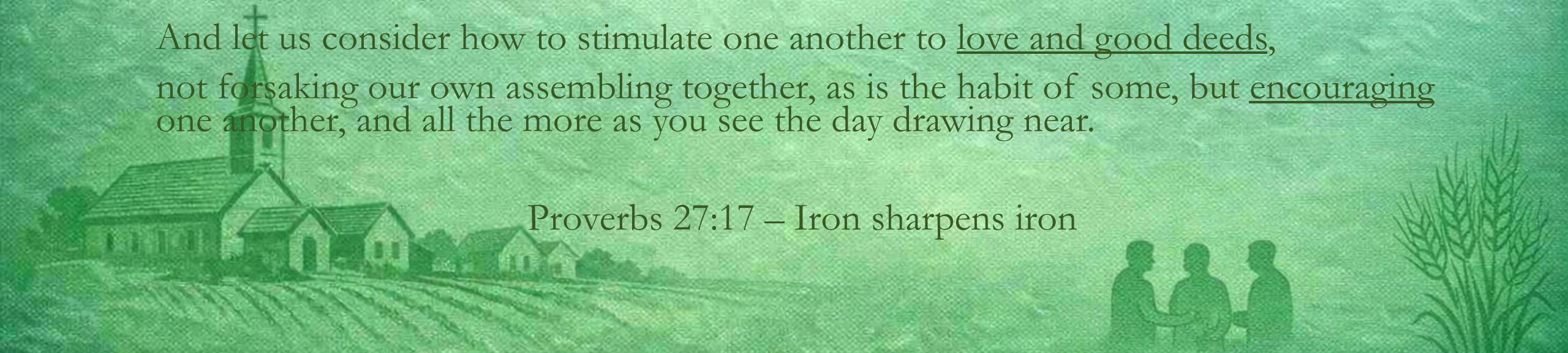
See to it brothers, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Proverbs 27:17 – Iron sharpens iron

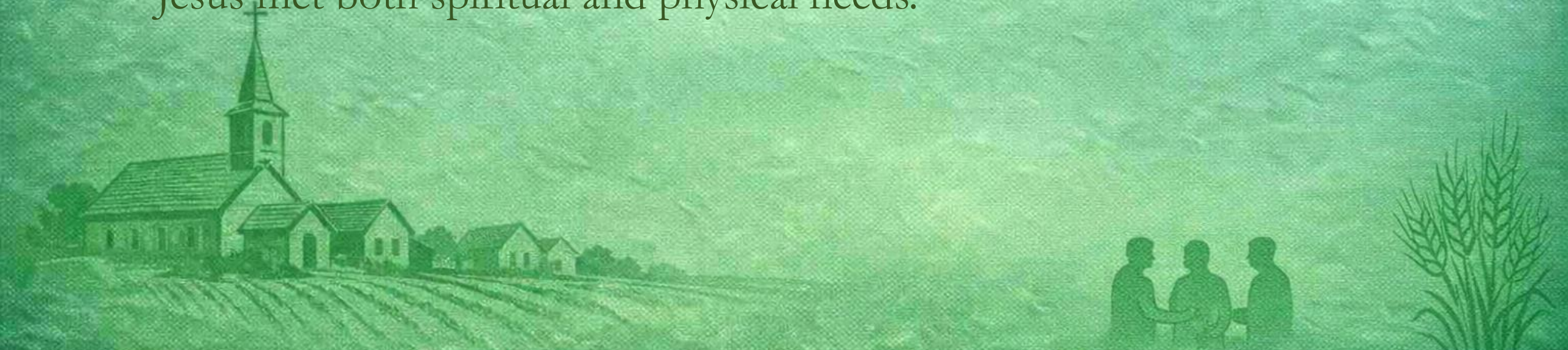


3. Meeting physical needs

Service includes practical care and physical acts of service.

Acts 9:36–42 – full of good works and charity which she continually did.

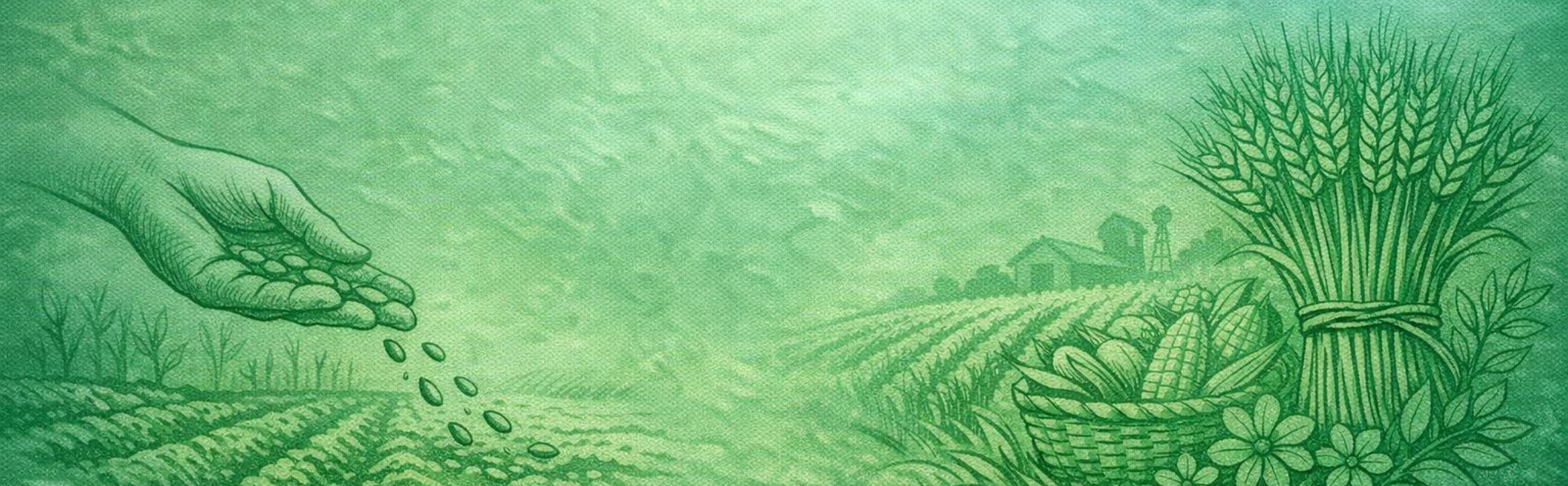
Jesus met both spiritual and physical needs.



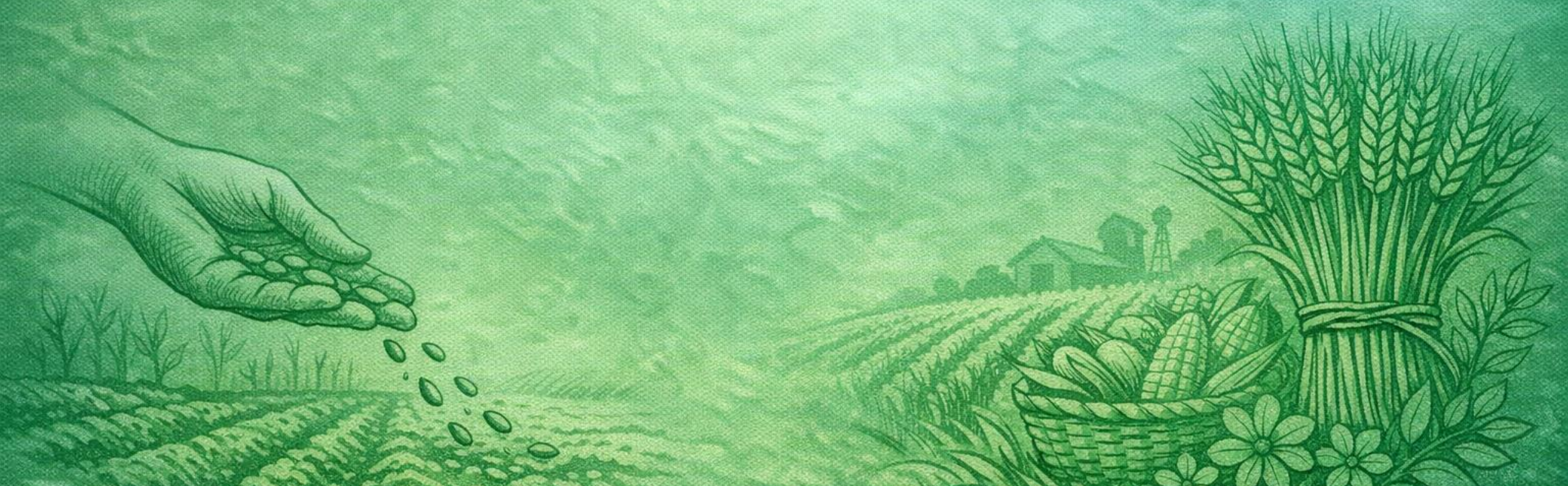
The Blessing of Service

Acts 20:35

...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said,
“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”



Finding Your Purpose



Cultivating a Lifestyle of Service

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 – he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows with blessing will also reap with blessing.

