

**WE'RE NOT  
GREEDY... RIGHT?**





# Jesus Told Stories

The image features a vibrant orange and red sunset sky over a city skyline. The text "Jesus Told Stories" is centered in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun, creating a dramatic and atmospheric scene.

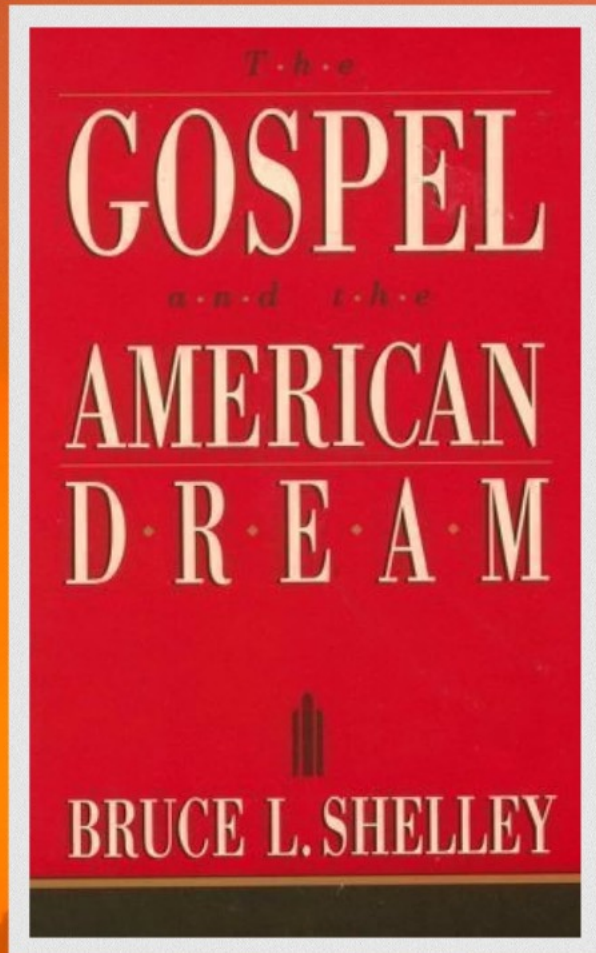
# Why Jesus Told This Stories

The image features a vibrant orange and red sunset sky over a city skyline. The text 'Why Jesus Told This Stories' is centered in white, with the word 'This' underlined. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun.



# Applying this Story Today

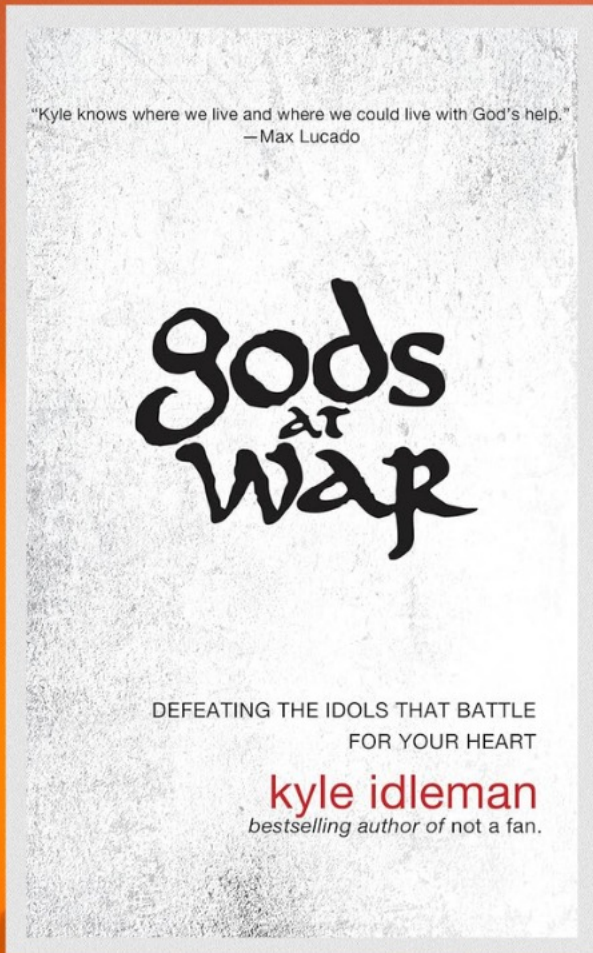




**“The expression ‘the American Dream’ is useful precisely because it can be twisted and shaped to one’s personal tastes. To one person it is to make the Olympic team; to another it is to borrow \$128,000 for her first home in suburbia; to a third it is to win the state’s lottery. The clue to the Dream is in the dreamer.”**

**This dream trades in individualism, which is a unique feature of the Western social consciousness.**

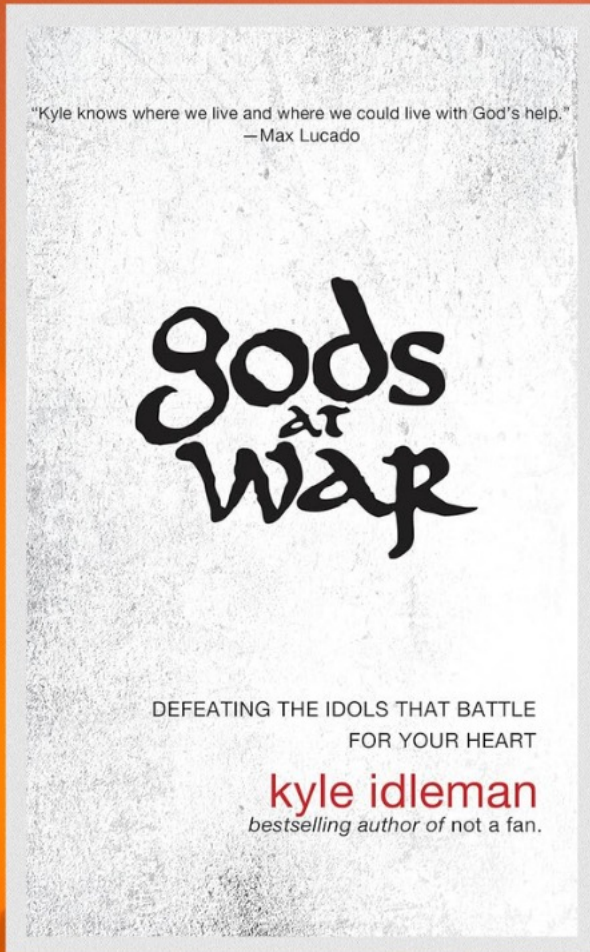
**In the nineteenth century, Alexis de Tocqueville reacts to this “American” feature and observes that as people “form the habit of thinking of themselves in isolation and imagine that their whole destiny is in their hands” they eventually “forget their ancestors” and the “greater society.” The DNA of the dream is self-centered.**



**"In the old days... [money] was just your garden variety god. Money was important, but the king had most of it. His palace was surrounded by teeming hordes of common people who had no wealth and no hope of ever getting any. They caught their fish or plowed their half acre or fought in the army. Rarely did they have two pennies to rub together, so they pursued more attainable gods.**

**Then the world began to change. Democracy created at least a somewhat more level playing field in the Western world. He was the star of the American dream, and when people talked about their 'pursuit of happiness' the god of money would think to himself, What they really mean is the pursuit of me." (152)**

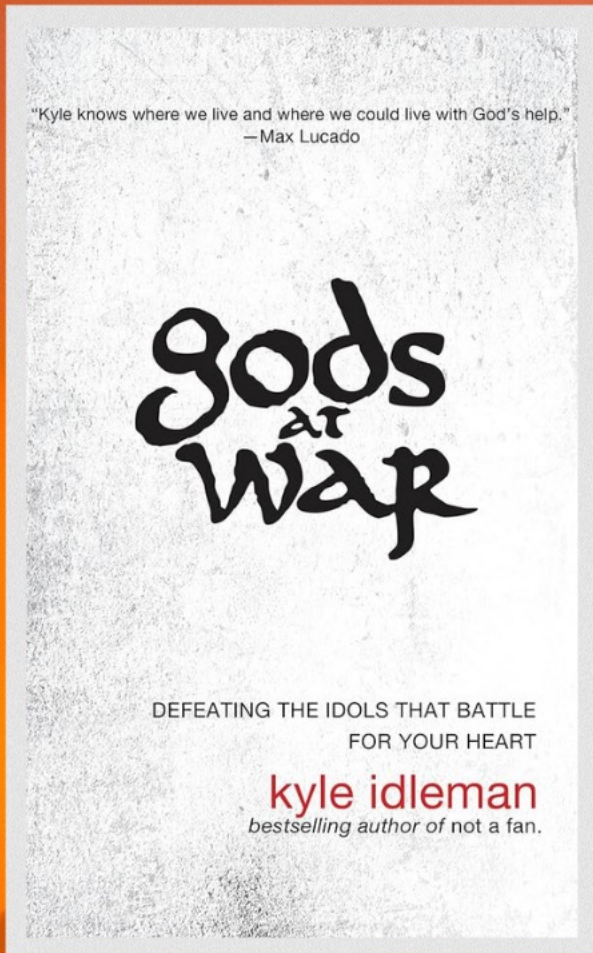




**“Money has grown so dominant in our culture that it’s difficult for us to stand far enough back to get a perspective. No matter what we may say, many of us live as if the pursuit of wealth is the real goal in life. Sometimes we hear rich people say things like ‘money doesn’t make you happy,’ but most of us think they all flew first class to some exotic destination where they got together and agreed to say that to make the rest of us feel better.**

**We pay lip service to the idea that money isn’t that important, but how we spend our time and what we pursue seem to reveal our true belief.” (153)**

**“Money is consistently portrayed as God’s chief competition.” (154)**



Kyle Idleman notes three “divine” attributes of money illustrated in the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21) that compete with God:

1. **Money is the Source of Security.** As a god of power, money promises that we can take care of ourselves. We can handle our needs.
2. **Money is the Source of Satisfaction.** If we accumulate just a little bit more, we can take it easy. “Eat, drink, and be merry. Simplicity is highly underrated and more wealth brings more problems, but often our hearts still say, “more.”
3. **Money is the Source of Significance.** Our identity is often found in the stuff we accumulate. Our stuff becomes the symbol of what makes us valuable.

# The Source of Security

The image features a vibrant orange and red sunset sky over a city skyline. The foreground shows the silhouettes of various buildings and structures, while the background is filled with a dense line of skyscrapers. The text 'The Source of Security' is prominently displayed in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, 9 lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.**

**(Proverbs 30:8-9)**

# The Source of Satisfaction

The image features a city skyline at sunset. The sky is a gradient of orange and red, with the sun low on the horizon. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky. The title 'The Source of Satisfaction' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

**“10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. 11 When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes?”**

**(Ecclesiastes 5:10-11)**



# The Source of Significance



**19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**(Matthew 6:19-21)**







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