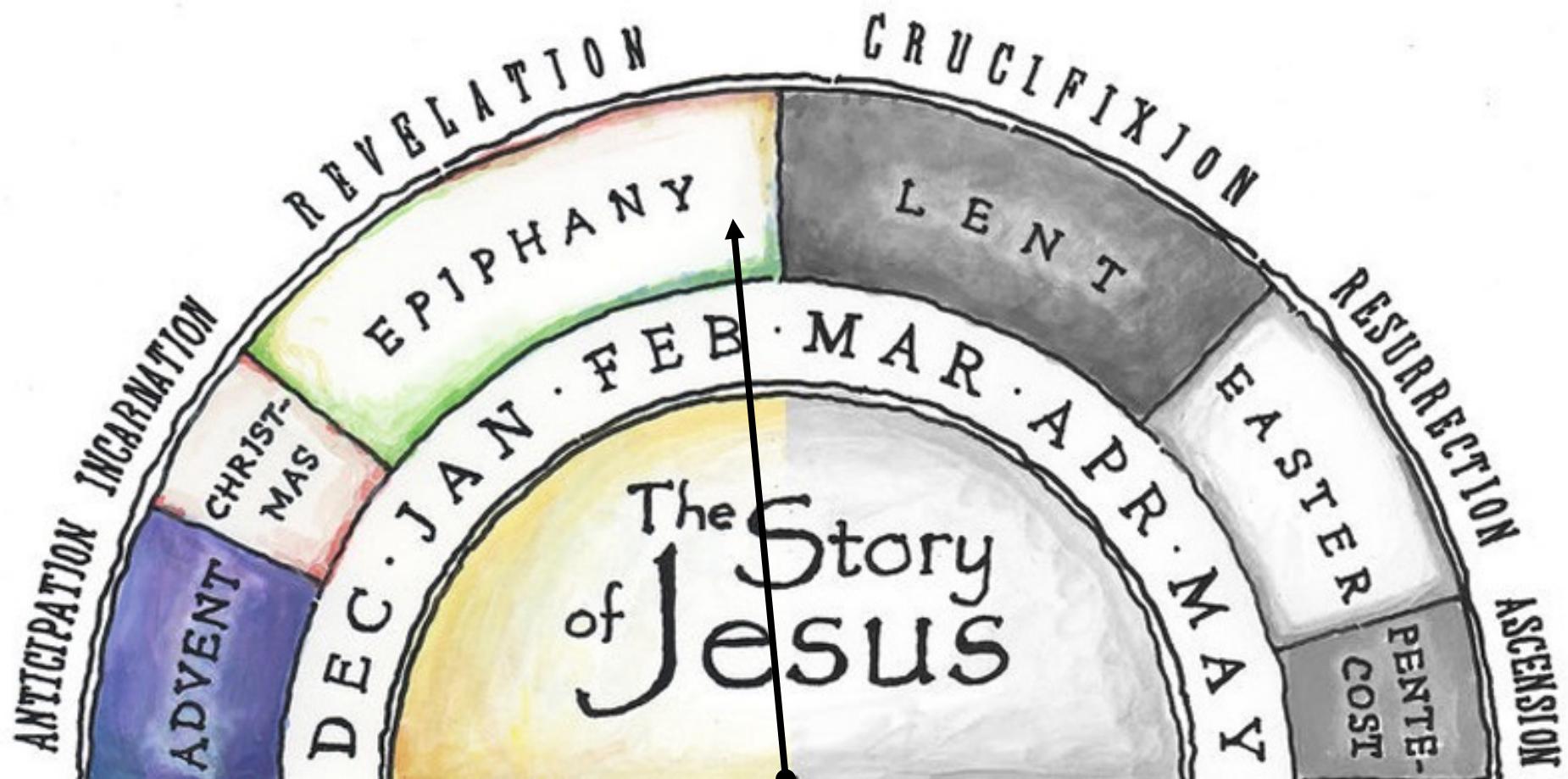


Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet you make yourself known in Jesus, whose compassion lights The Way. Transform us into his love and likeness, renew our humanity that we may share in his divinity, the same Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

## Opening Prayer



# CHURCH CALENDAR



# **THE PRACTICE OF GENEROSITY**

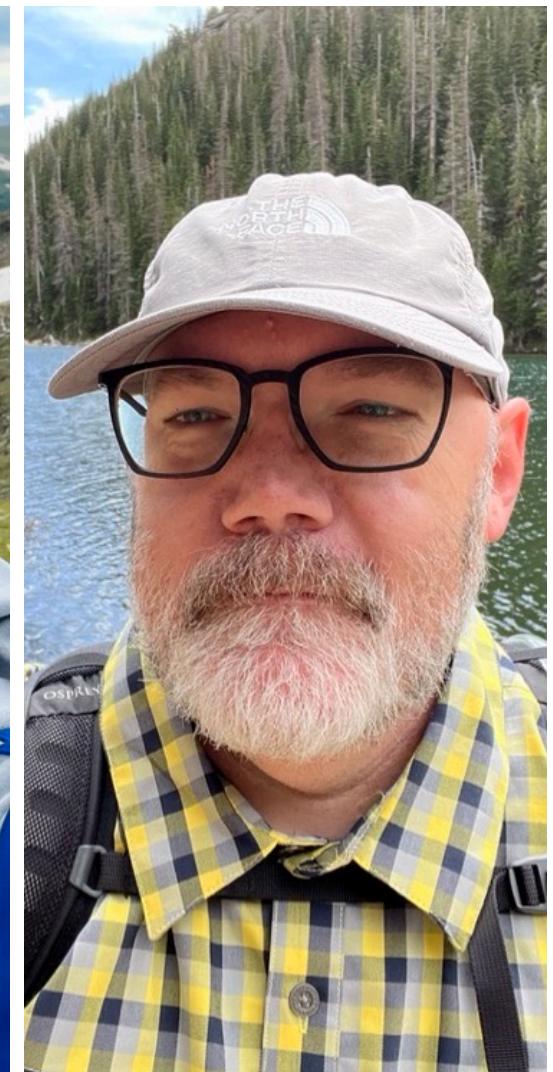
Week 1: Joy (Giving > Receiving)

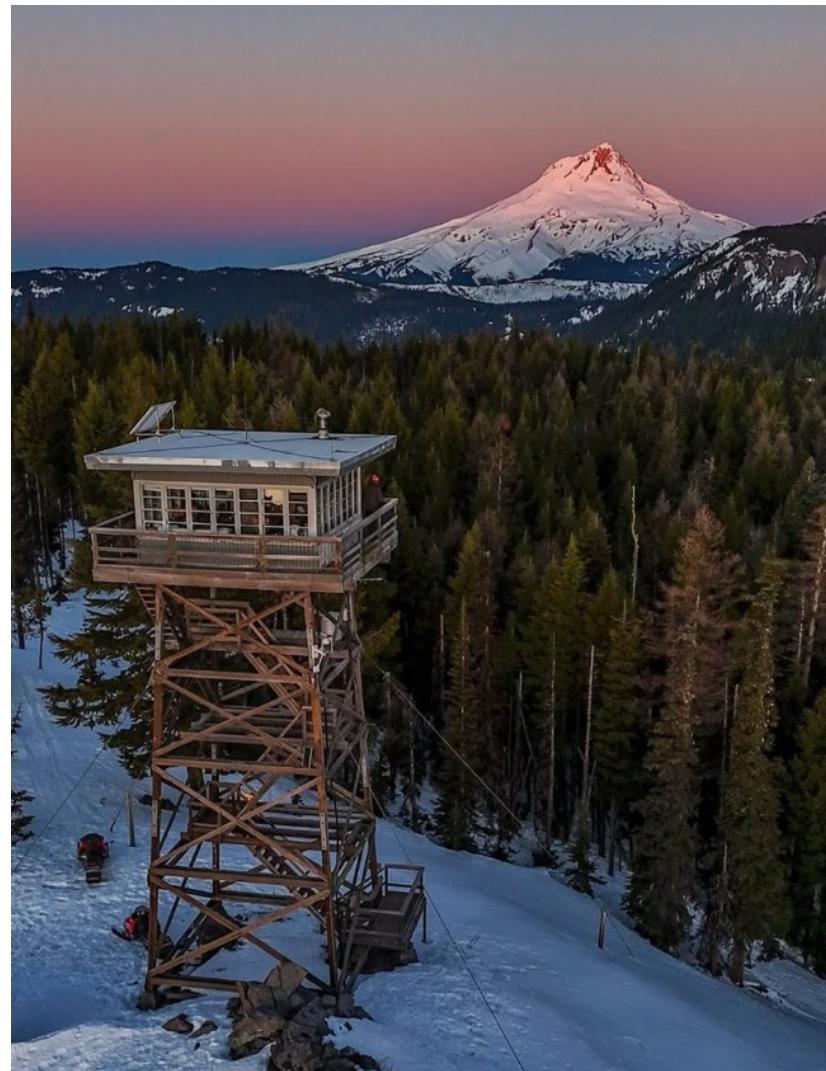
Week 2: Simplicity (Freedom > Greed)

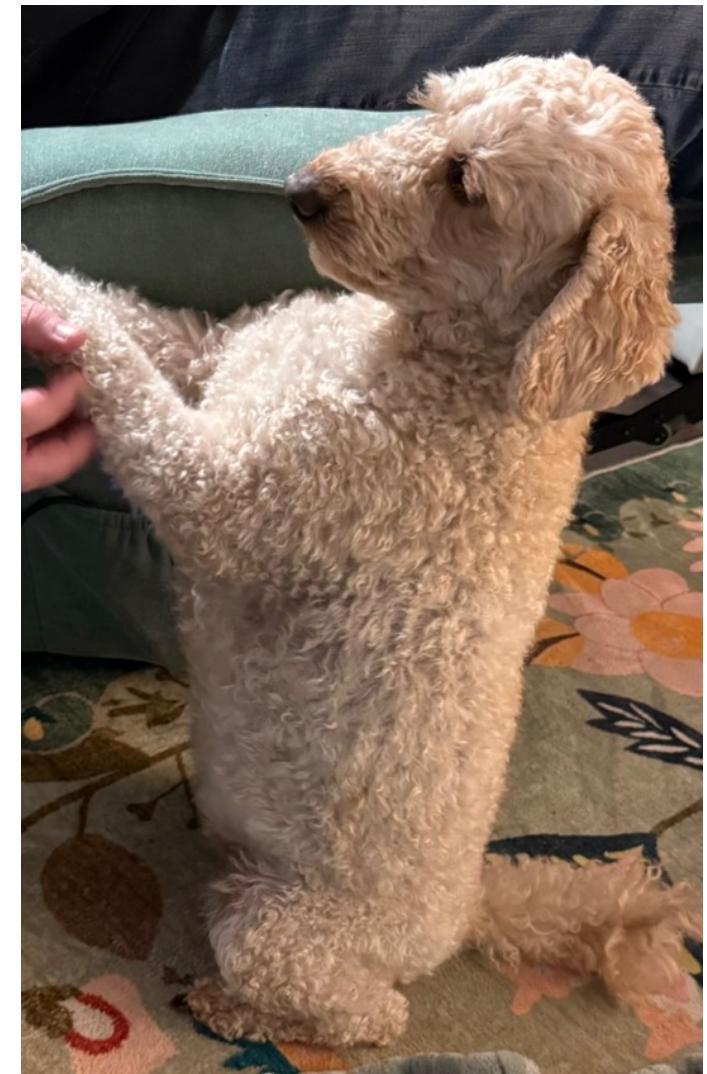
**Week 3: Stewardship**

Week 4: Sharing









*Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks, they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes.*



*Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, he will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night, or toward daybreak.*

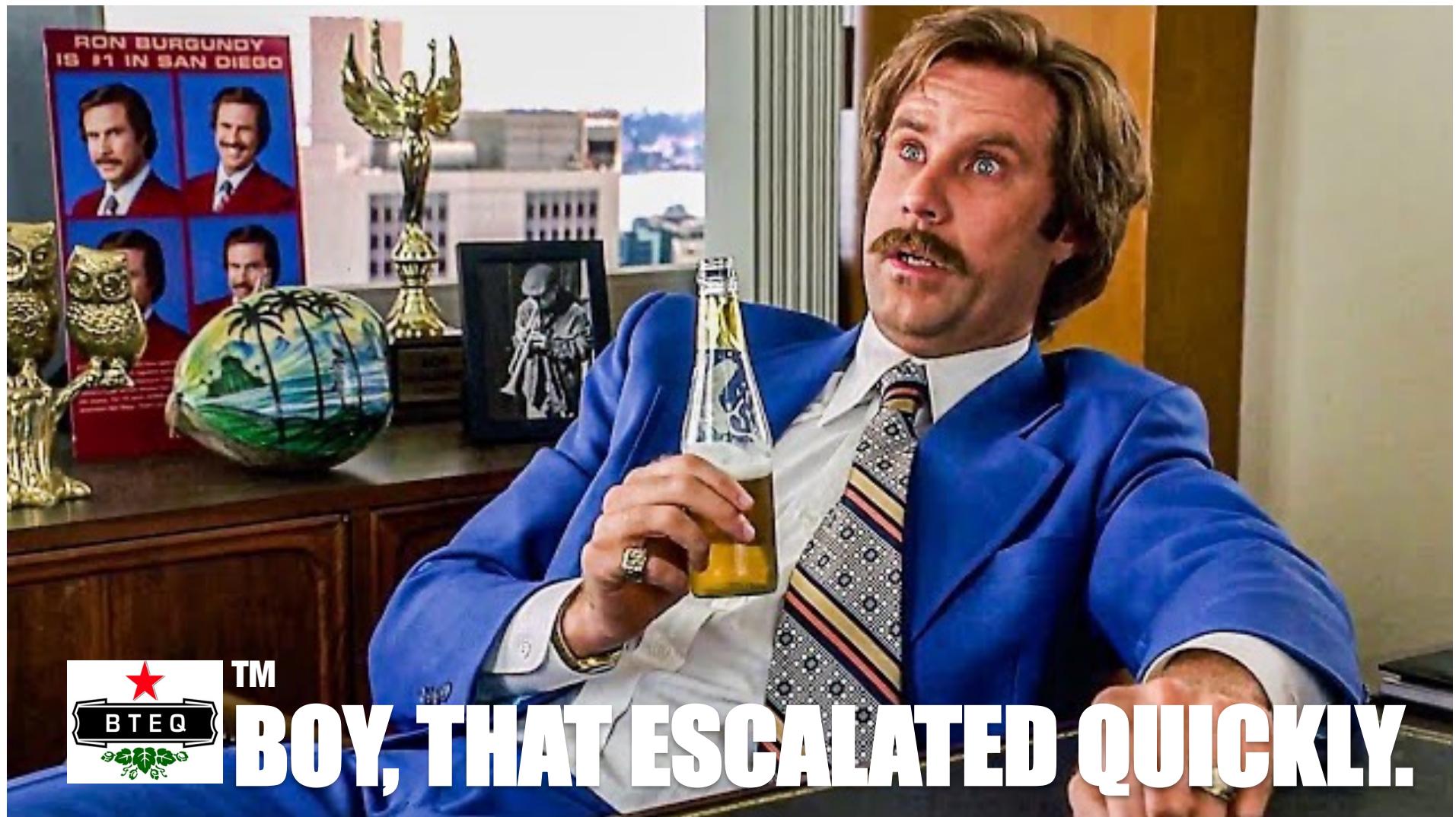


*The Lord (said), “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.*



*But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.*





**BOY, THAT ESCALATED QUICKLY.**

*But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. **He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.***



**I SAY WE STOMP HIM.  
THEN WE TATTOO HIM.  
THEN WE HANG HIM.  
AND THEN WE KILL HIM!**



**I SAY WE  
LET HIM GO ...**



The lesson is...there are consequences for their actions when the “master” is away, and the absurd way this point is expressed makes the lesson memorable... The point of the parable, in short, is about how we should act, not about how God acts when (God) judges us.



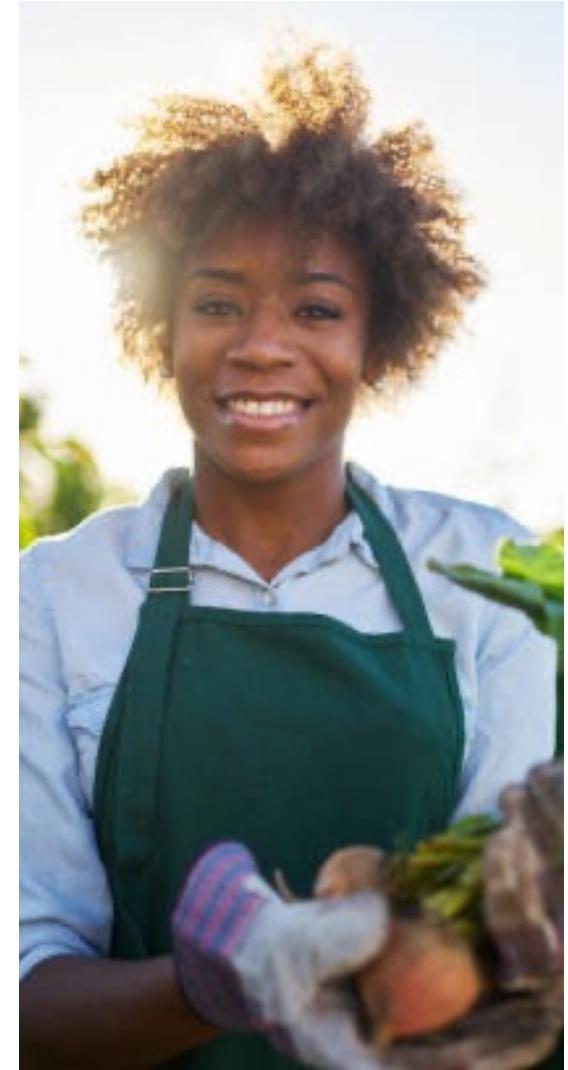


The active, responsible management  
of God's creation for God's purposes

# **STEWARDSHIP IN SCRIPTURE**

## **1. GOD OWNS IT ALL**

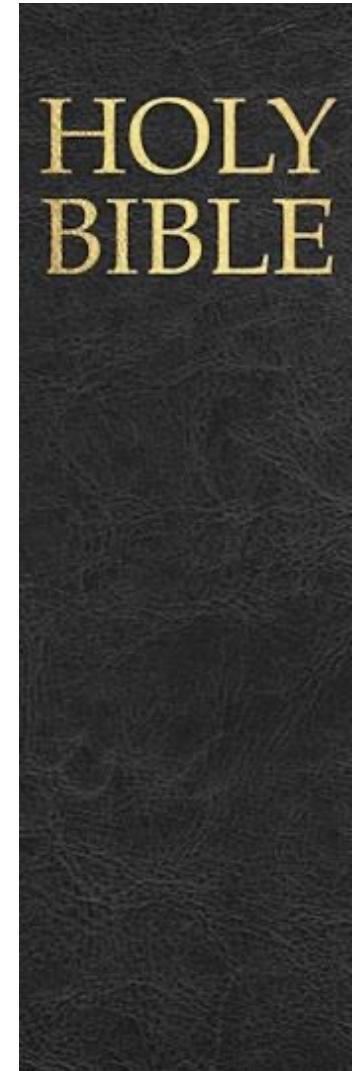
- **Greeks:** non-ownership *Public*
- **Romans:** ownership *Individual*
- **Jesus:** God = owner  
Us = caretakers



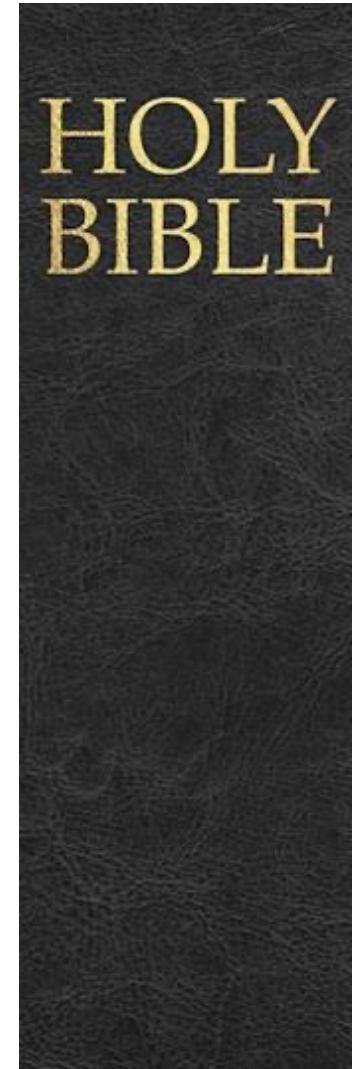
*The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. **Gen 2:15***

*The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners/strangers. **Lev 25:23***

*To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. **Deut 10:14.***



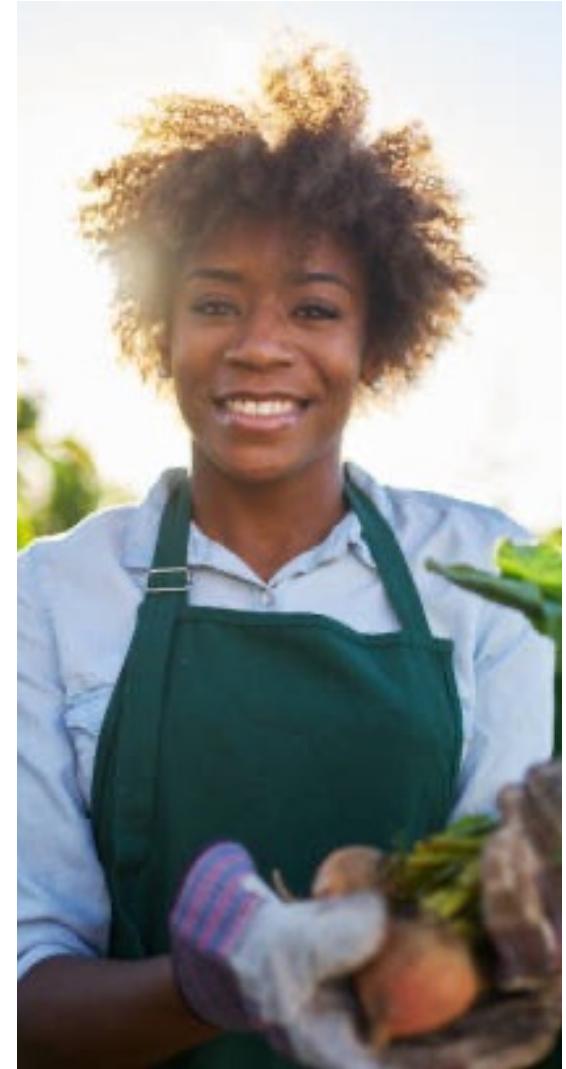
*For every animal of the forest is mine,  
and the cattle on a thousand hills.  
I know every bird in the mountains,  
and the insects in the fields are mine.  
If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the world is mine,  
and all that is in it.* **Psalm 50:10-12**



## **STEWARDSHIP IN SCRIPTURE**

### **2. GOD ENTRUSTS RESOURCES TO US TO DO GOOD WITH**

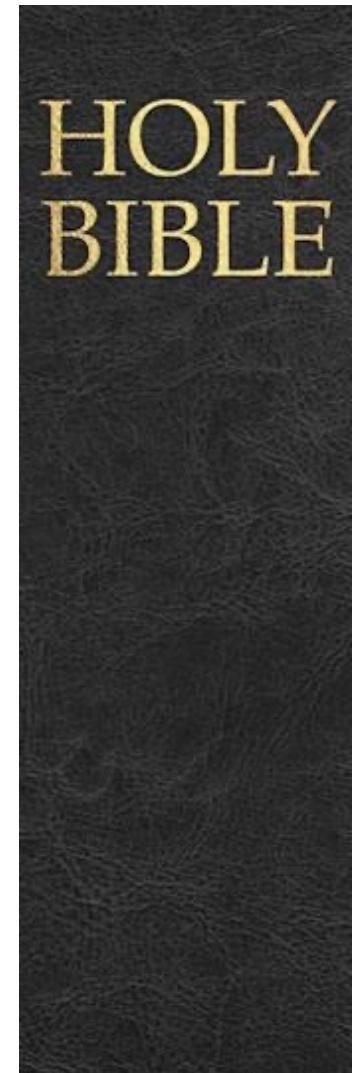
- Not all of your money is for you!

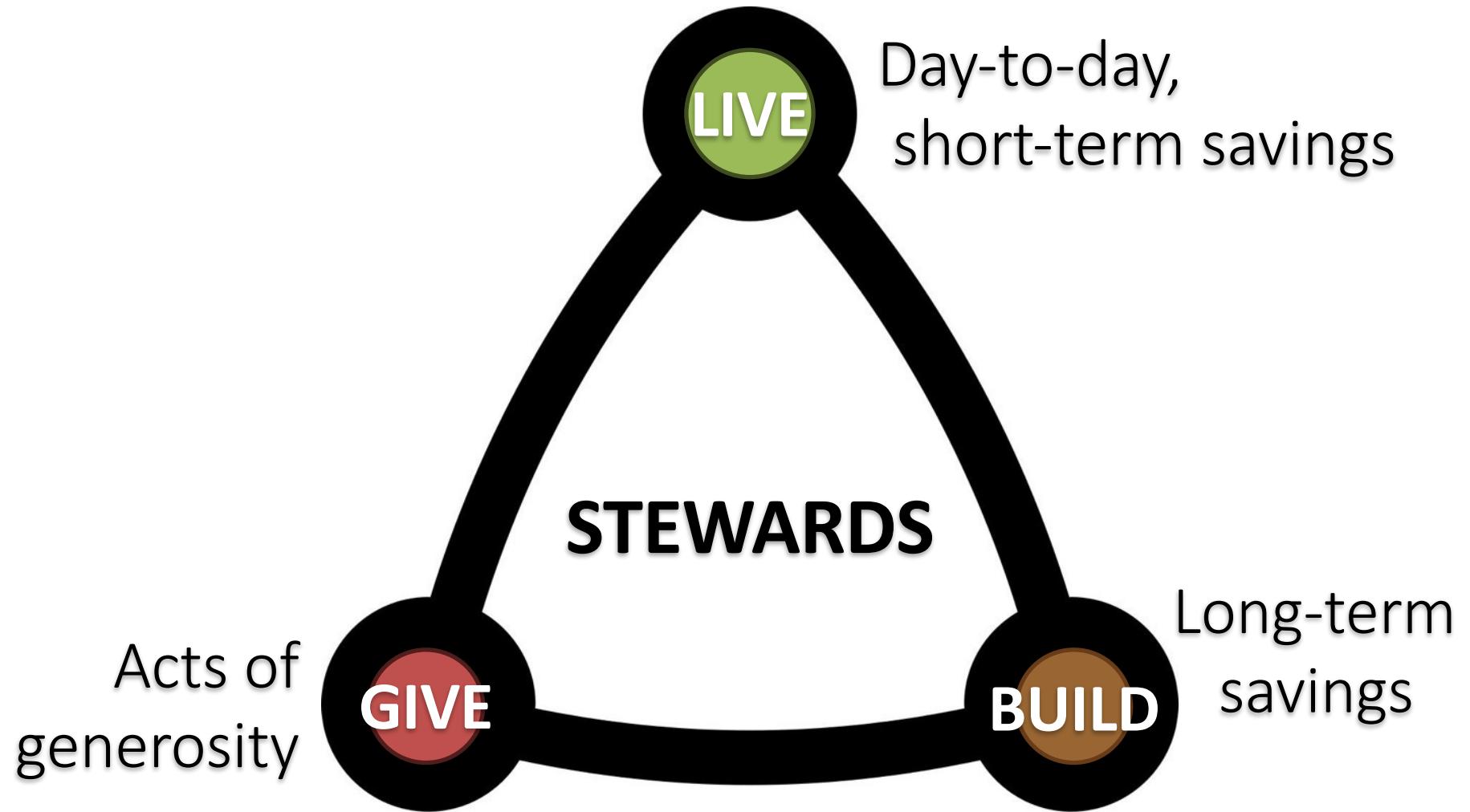


*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant, nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.* **1 Tim 6:17-18**

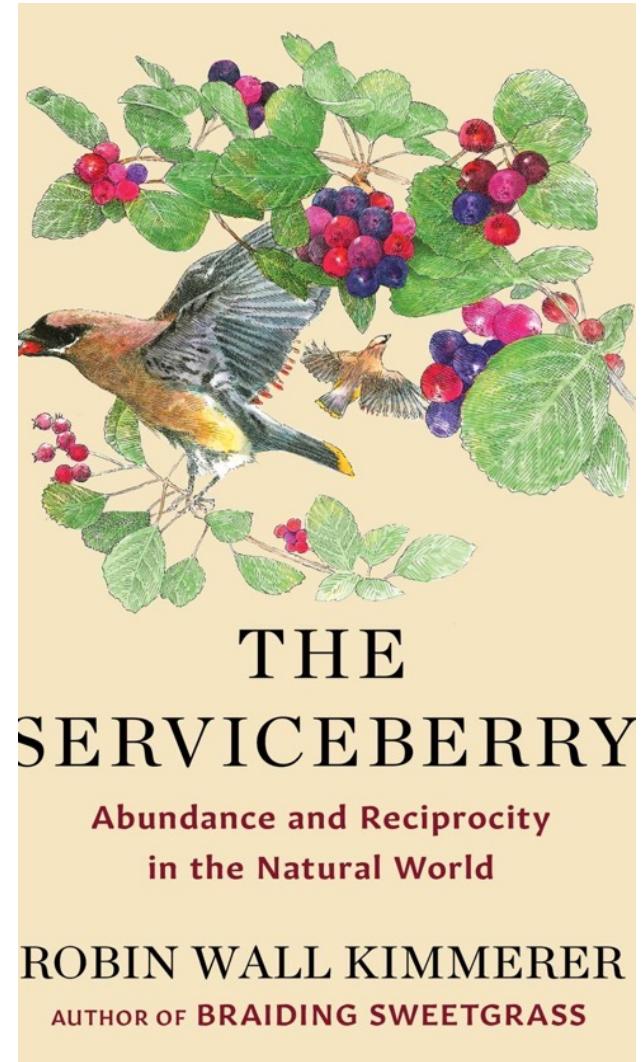


*In this way they will lay up treasure  
for themselves as a firm foundation  
for the coming age, so that they may  
take hold of the life that is truly life.* **1 Tim 6:19**

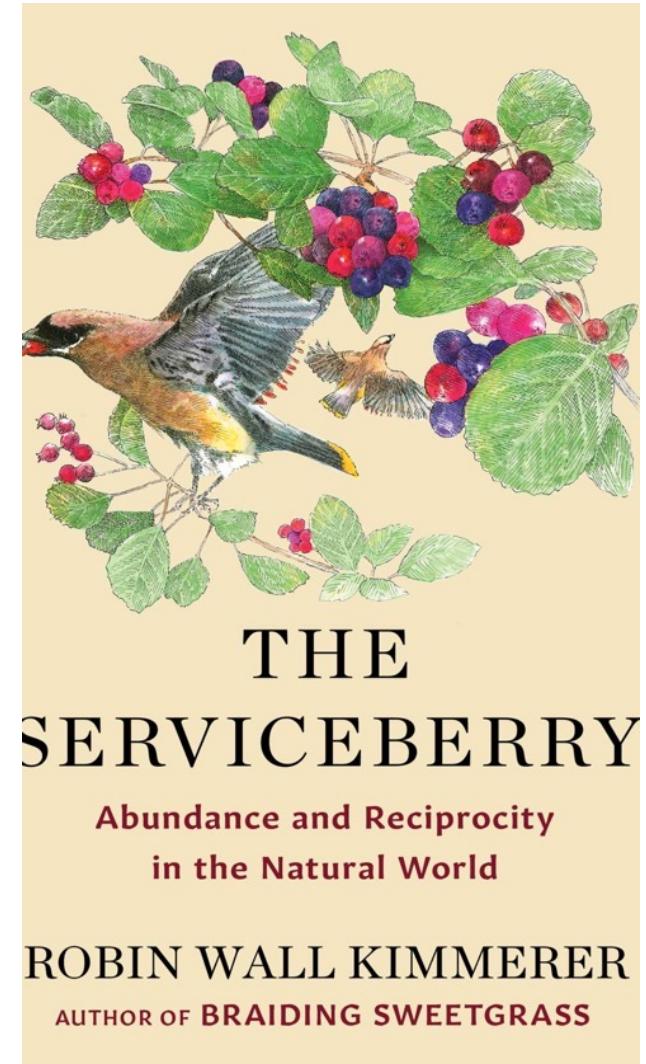




Receiving a gift from the land is coupled to attached responsibilities of sharing, respect, reciprocity, and gratitude. This kind of gratitude is so much more than a polite “thank you.” Not an automatic ritual of “manners,” but a recognition of indebtedness that can stop you in your tracks...



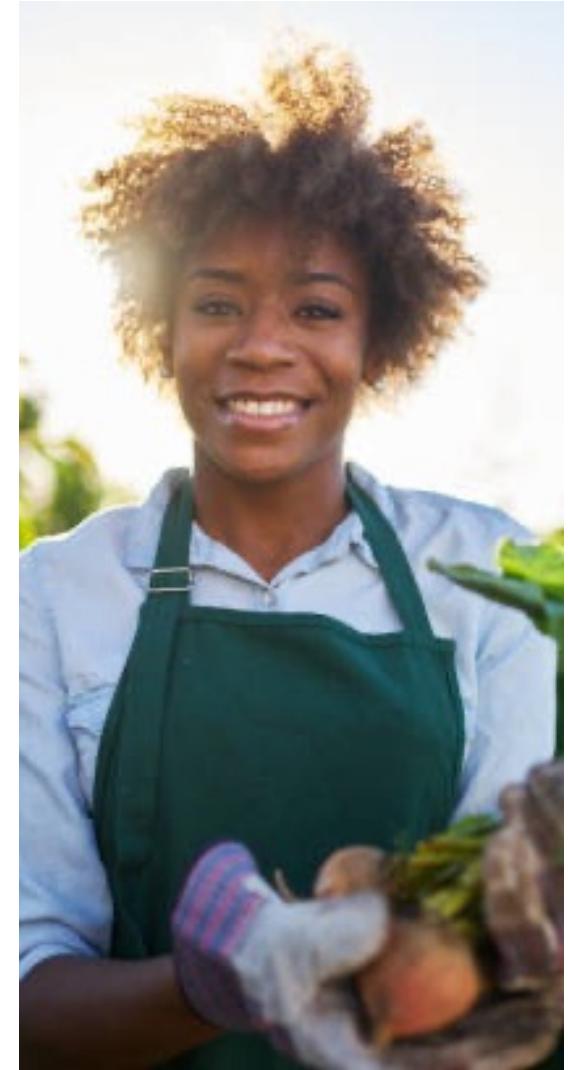
In a gift economy, wealth is understood as having enough to share, and the practice for dealing with abundance is to give it away.



## **STEWARDSHIP IN SCRIPTURE**

### **3. IF YOU HAVE MORE, GIVE MORE**

- To whom much is given...
- With great (wealth) comes...
- Not about giving-to-get
- The better question is not,  
*“How much should I give away?”*  
but *“How much should I keep?”*
- Requires wisdom/discernment



## **THINGS TO PRAY ABOUT...**

- What is an appropriate standard of living based on my income and my commitment to Jesus?
- How many outfits, jackets, hoodies, pairs of shoes... do I need?
- What kind of car should I drive?
- How much money should I/we keep in savings?



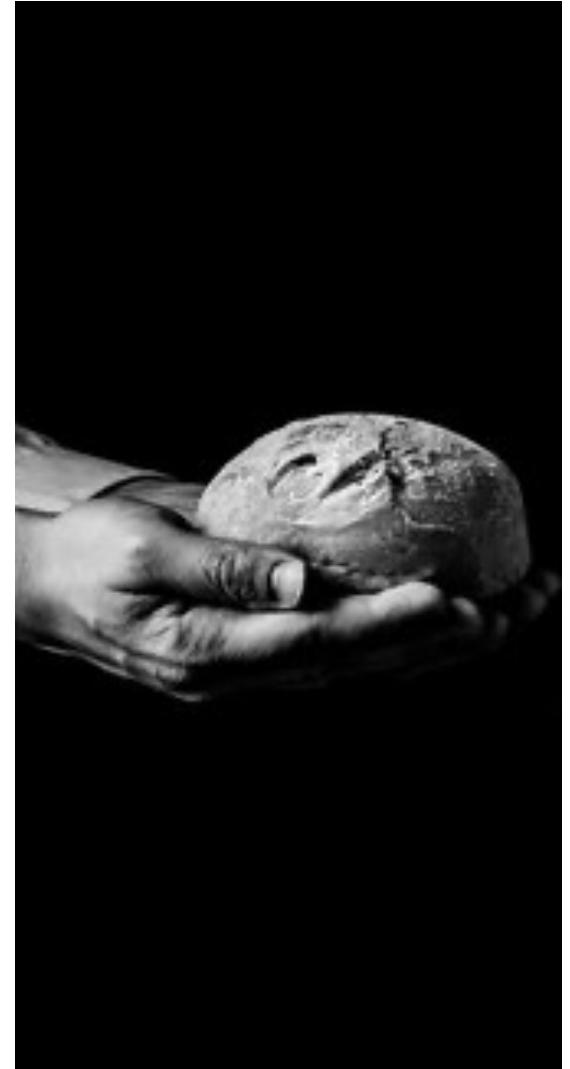
# **GIVING SHOULD BE...**

1. Regular *1 Cor 16:2 (On the 1st day of the week...)*



## **GIVING SHOULD BE...**

1. Regular
2. Proportional *Ditto (...in keeping w/your income)*



## **GIVING SHOULD BE...**

1. Regular
2. Proportional
3. Sacrificial *2 Cor 8:3 (...even beyond their ability)*



## **GIVING SHOULD BE...**

1. Regular
2. Proportional
3. Sacrificial
4. Voluntary *2 Cor 9:7a (not reluctantly/forced)*



## **GIVING SHOULD BE...**

1. Regular
2. Proportional
3. Sacrificial
4. Voluntary
5. Joyful/cheerful ***2 Cor 9:7b (...cheerful giver)***



# **GIVING SHOULD BE...**

1. Regular
2. Proportional
3. Sacrificial
4. Voluntary
5. Joyful/cheerful
6. Motivated by our commitment

to be a student of Jesus ***2 Cor 8:9***

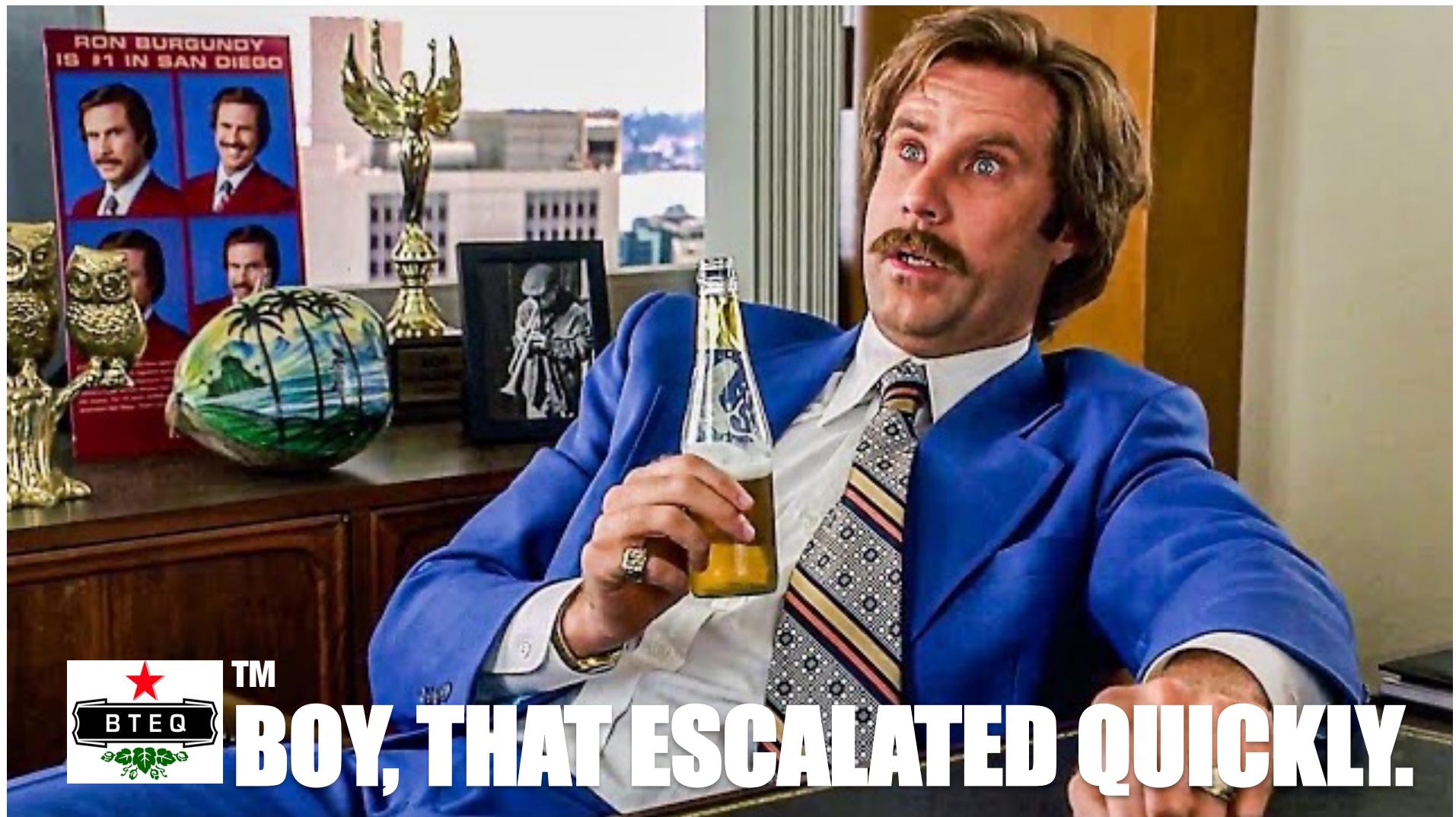
***(though he was rich, for your sake he became poor)***



## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

- Do I try to listen/hear from God about money (or anything else)?(!)
- What's keeping me from listening?
- What barriers are keeping me from being more generous in my life
  - No margin? *\$, Schedule, Relationships*
  - Fear? Greed?
  - Debt?

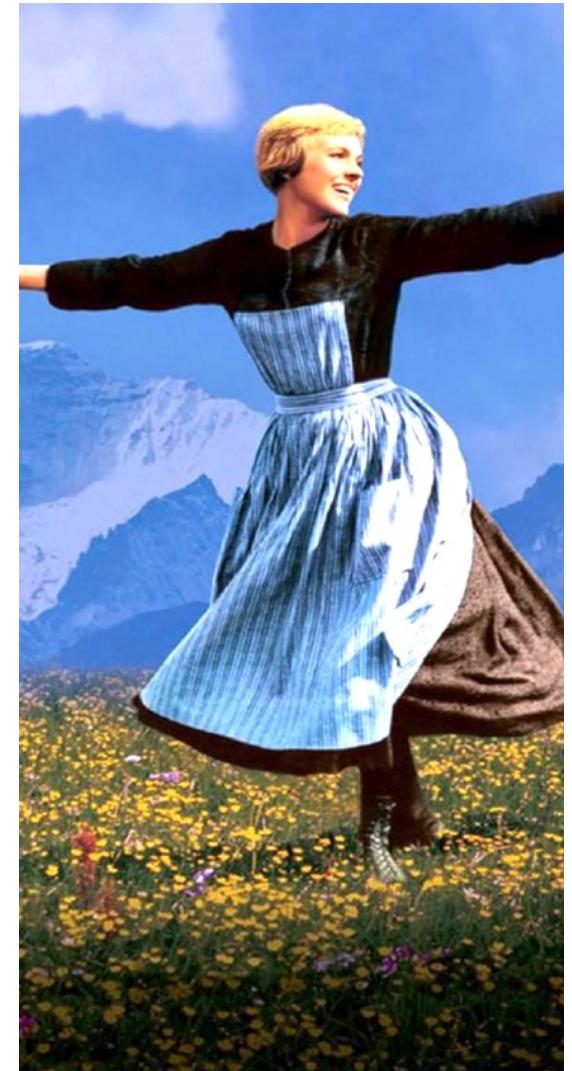




**BOY, THAT ESCALATED QUICKLY.**

## **SOME BASICS ON DEBT...**

- Make a list of your debts, from smallest to largest; pay off smallest...



## **SOME BASICS ON DEBT...**

- Make a list of your debts, from smallest to largest; pay off smallest...
- Take a granular look at spending; eliminate/reduce what you can...
  - Online subscriptions
  - Frequency of going out to eat
  - Negotiate debt reduction



## **SOME BASICS ON DEBT...**

- Make a list of your debts, from smallest to largest; pay off smallest...
- Take a granular look at spending; eliminate/reduce what you can...
- Commit to stop borrowing, buying non-essentials on credit...



## **SOME BASICS ON DEBT...**

- Make a list of your debts, from smallest to largest; pay off smallest...
- Take a granular look at spending; eliminate/reduce what you can...
- Commit to stop borrowing, buying non-essentials on credit...
- Get/stay on a zero-interest card...



## **SOME BASICS ON DEBT...**

- Work towards, and pray for, a more just system that reduces or eliminates debt accrued due to predatory lenders/ institutions, sees wealthy nations forgive the debt of poorer nations, and sees unjust financial systems/leaders dismantled and held accountable





**ROBBIN  
KERTH**



**BOB  
DINSDALE**

Perfect Light of revelation,  
as you shone in the life of Jesus,  
whose epiphany we celebrate,  
so shine in us and through us,  
that we may become beacons  
of truth and compassion,  
enlightening all creation with  
deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.



## Closing Prayer