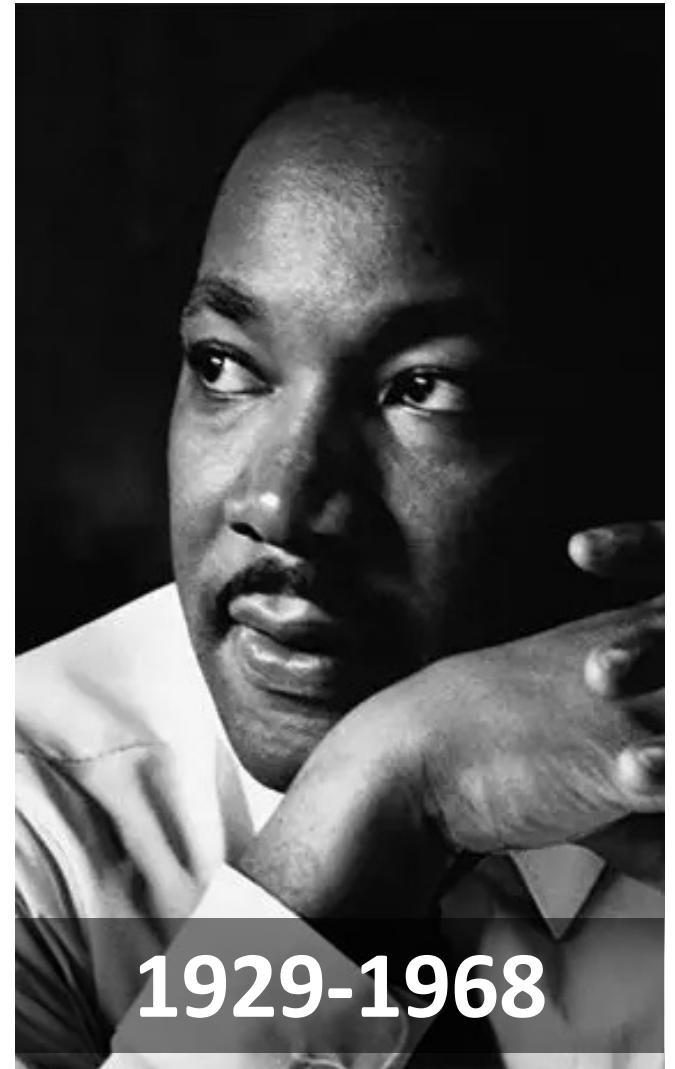
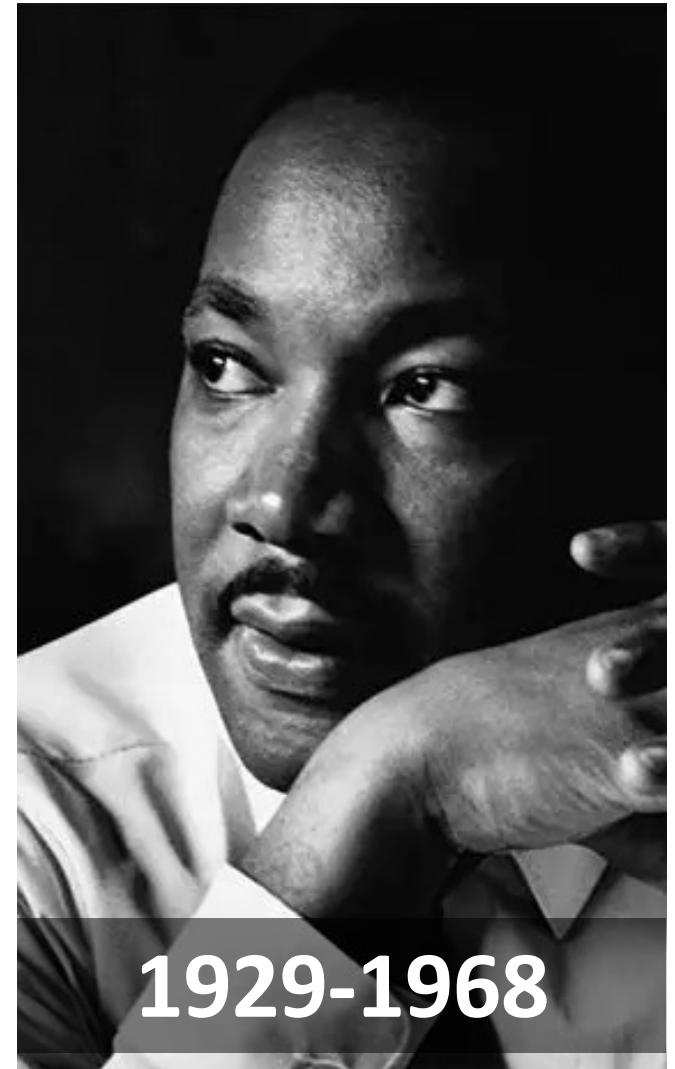


The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscious of the state. It must be the guide and critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority.



1929-1968

A nation that continues year-after-year to spend more money on defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.



1929-1968

Lord, make us channels of disturbance.
Where there is apathy, let us provoke;
Where there is compliance, let us bring questioning.
Where there is silence, may we be a voice.
Where there is too much comfort
 and too little action, grant disruption.
Where there are doors closed and hearts locked,
 grant the willingness to listen.

Opening Prayer



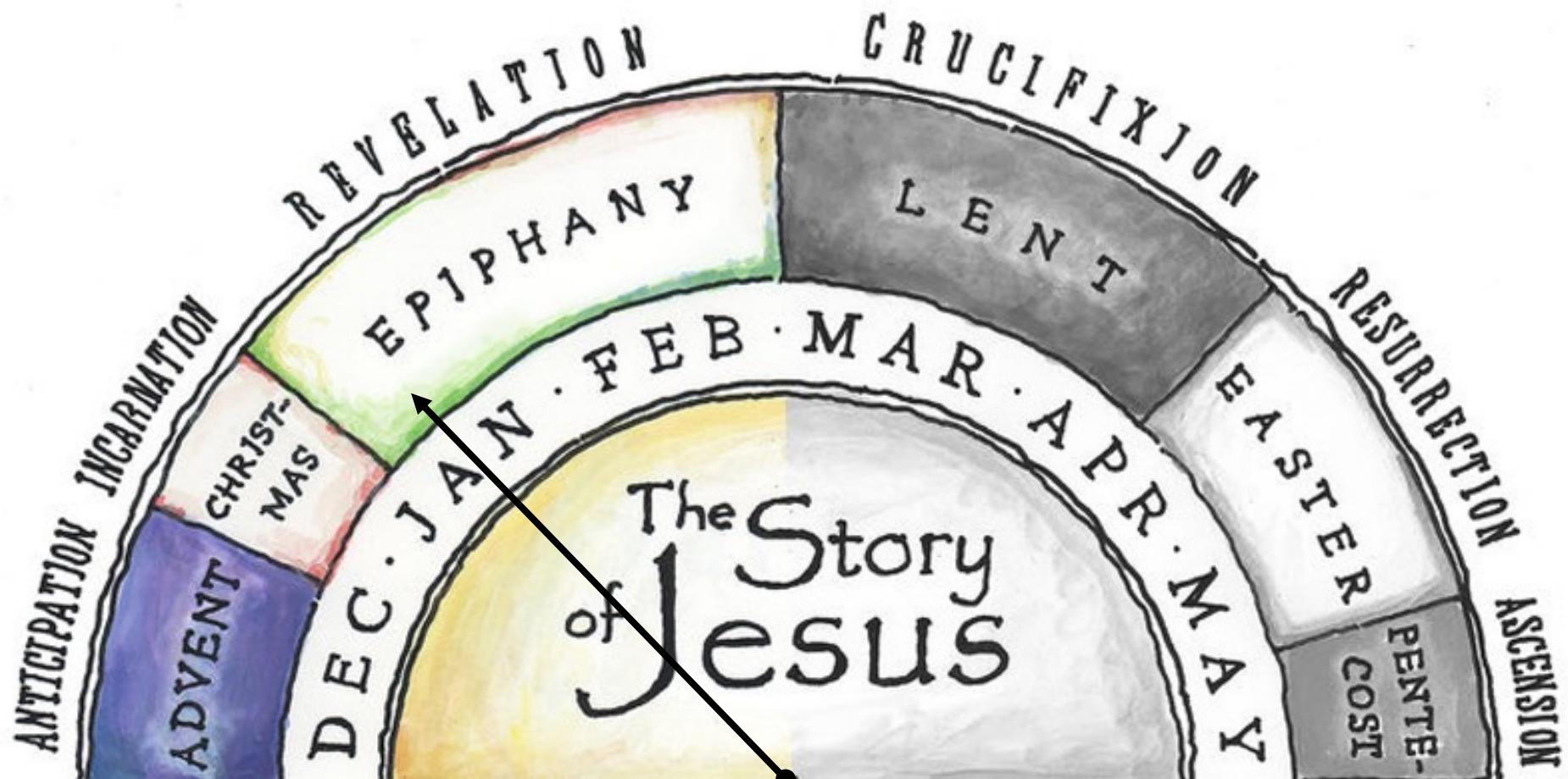
When laws dictate and pain is overlooked...
When tradition speaks louder than need...
Grant that we may seek rather to do justice
than to talk about it.

Disturb us, O Lord:
 to be with, as well as for, the alienated;
 to love the unlovable, as well as the lovely.
Lord, make us channels of holy disturbance. Amen.



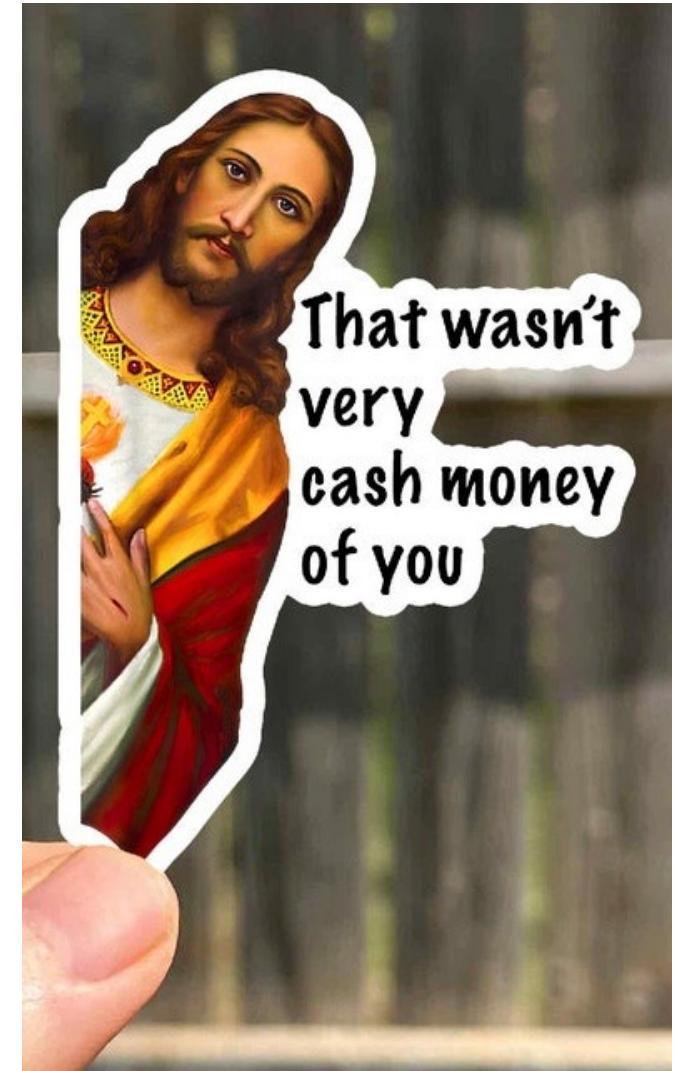
Opening Prayer

CHURCH CALENDAR



FUN FACT

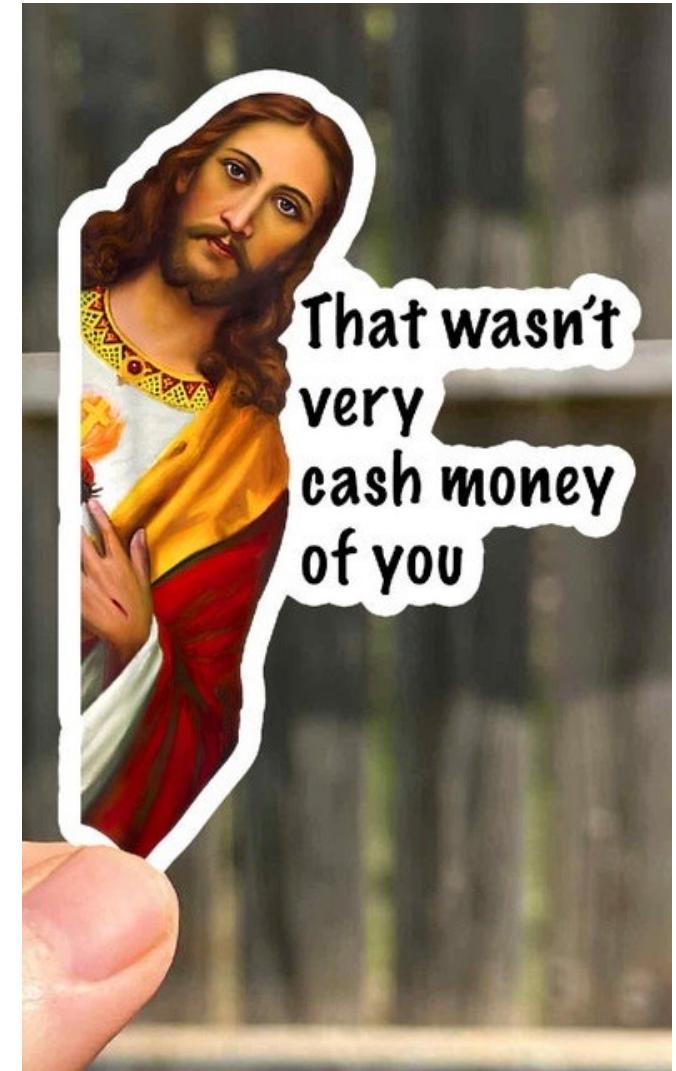
Roughly 25% of Jesus' teaching/comments relate to money in some way/shape/form



FUN FACT

Roughly 25% of Jesus' teaching/comments relate to money in some way/shape/form

Imagine 1 of every 4 messages at Vintage being about money?!



PRACTICING the WAY

Solitude

Scripture

Community

Sabbath

Prayer

Fasting

Service

Generosity

Witness



THE PRACTICE OF GENEROSITY

Week 1: Joy

Week 2: Simplicity

Week 3: Stewardship

Week 4: Sharing



THOUGHTS/FEEINGS RE: MONEY

How do you FEEL about money?

- Anxious?
- Frustrated?
- Guilty?
- Skeptical?

How were \$/generosity handled...?

How is this part of your life in Jesus?



JESUS ON “THE GOOD LIFE”

According to Jesus, what we **THINK**
will make us happy...doesn't

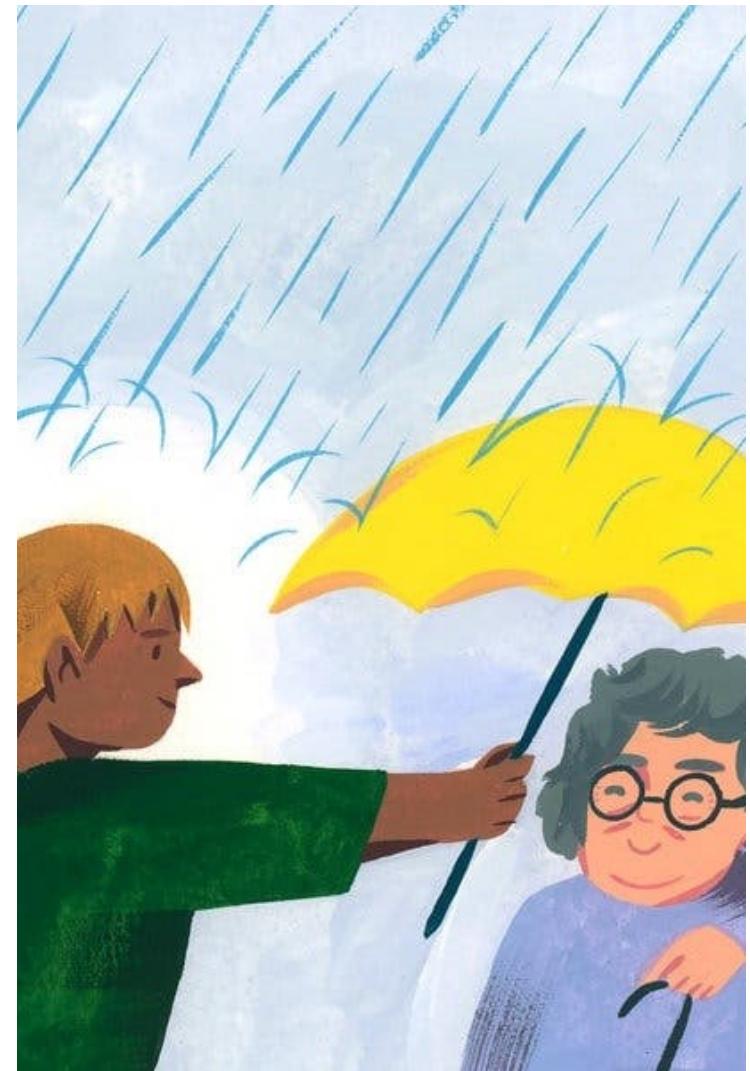
- The last will be first *Matt 20:16*
- The humble will be exalted *Matt 23:12*
- Giving > receiving *Acts 20:35*



WHAT THE SCIENCE SAYS

Social scientists confirm that people who are generous are:

- Happier
- Healthier
- Less depressed
- Less anxious
- Have better relationships
- Have higher life expectancy



(The link between generosity and happiness) is not simply a nice idea, but is a social-scientific fact.

THE PARADOX OF GENEROSITY



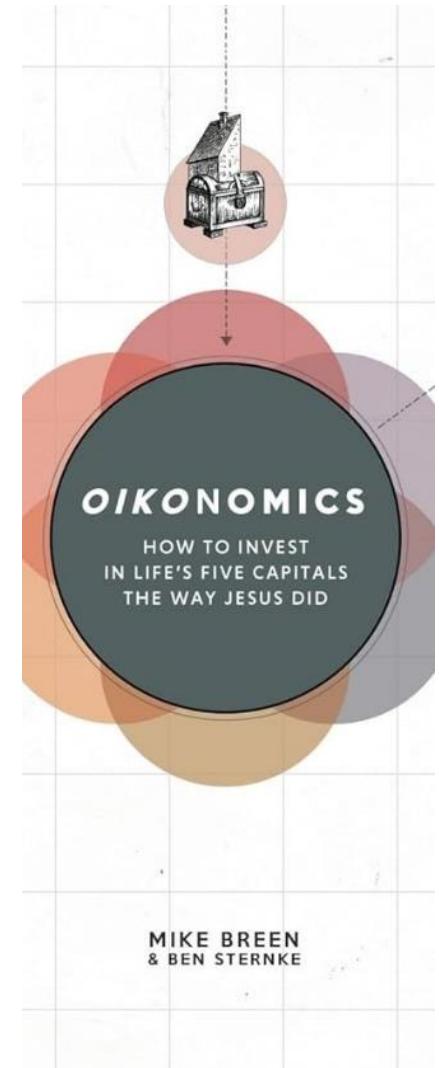
GIVING WE RECEIVE, GRASPING WE LOSE

Christian Smith &
Hilary Davidson

THE FIVE CAPITALS

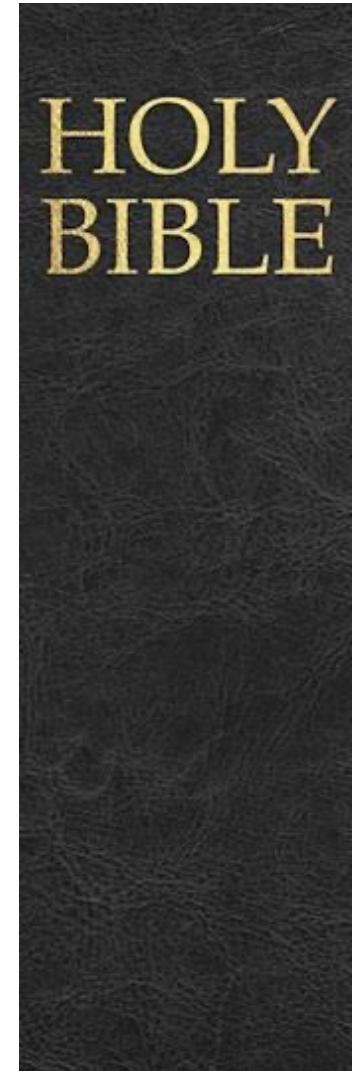
Growing into the character + competency of Jesus requires discovering the joy of living generously with our:

- Spiritual equity *Wisdom, Love, etc.*
- Relational equity *Friends, connections, etc.*
- Physical resources *Available time/energy*
- Intellectual resources *Concepts/ideas*
- Financial resources *Dollars/Cents*



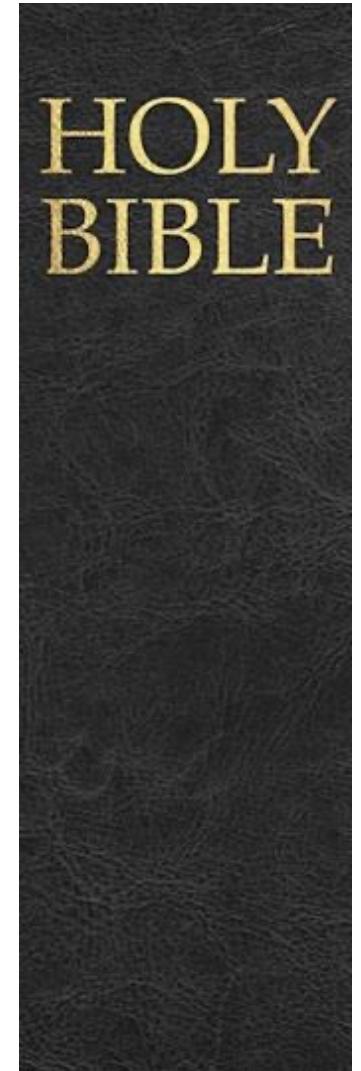
MATTHEW 6:19-21

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



MATTHEW 6:22-23

*The eye is the lamp of the body.
If your eyes are healthy, your
whole body will be full of light.
But if your eyes are unhealthy,
your whole body will be full
of darkness. If then the light
within you is darkness,
how great is that darkness!*



ABUNDANCE

- God as Father/provider
- You as God's child
- Life as a gift
- More than enough for all
- Gratitude to God
- Generosity to neighbor

⋮ ⋮ ⋮ Practicing
⋮ ⋮ ⋮ the Way



ABUNDANCE

- God as Father/provider
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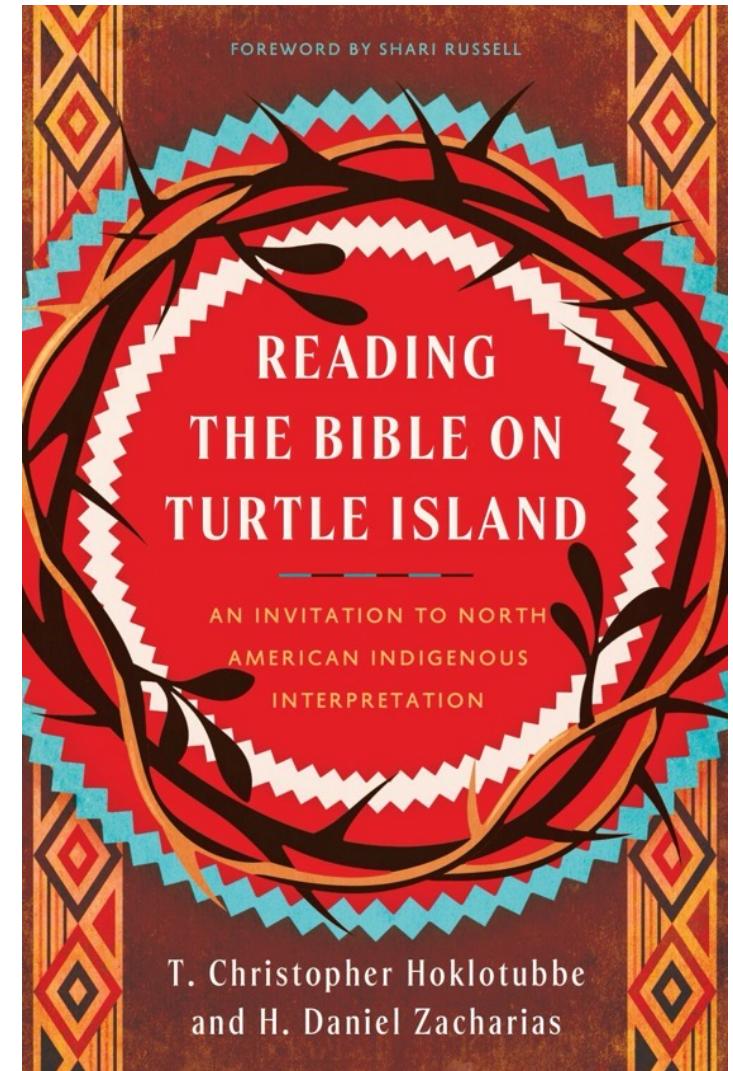
⋮ ⋮ ⋮ Practicing
⋮ ⋮ ⋮ the Way

SCARCITY/LACK

- Absentee Father at best
- You're on your own
- Dog-eat-dog danger
- Scarcity of resources
- Always wanting more
- Greed/fear of losing out



Turtle Island hermeneutics holds to...an *asset-based* theology (rooted in Gen 1, not Gen 3) that focuses on the strengths and potential of the community. It avoids focusing on problems and deficits, but chooses to identify assets already available that can be leveraged for positive change.



ABUNDANCE

- God as Father/provider
- You as God's child
- Life as a gift
- More than enough for all
- Gratitude to God
- Generosity to neighbor



Healthy Eye

SCARCITY/LACK

- Absentee Father at best
- You're on your own
- Dog-eat-dog danger
- Scarcity of resources
- Always wanting more
- Greed/fear of losing out



Unhealthy Eye

ABUNDANCE

- Jesus teachings on money make sense
- “Don’t worry...Seek first... Give and it will be given...”



Freedom to be generous

SCARCITY/LACK

- Jesus sounds foolish, dangerous, and naïve
- “Worry...look out for #1, Life is a zero-sum game”



Enslaved by fear/greed

MATTHEW 6:24

*No one can serve two masters.
Either you will hate the one
and love the other, or you will
be devoted to the one and despise
the other. You cannot serve
both God and Mammon.*



MAMMON

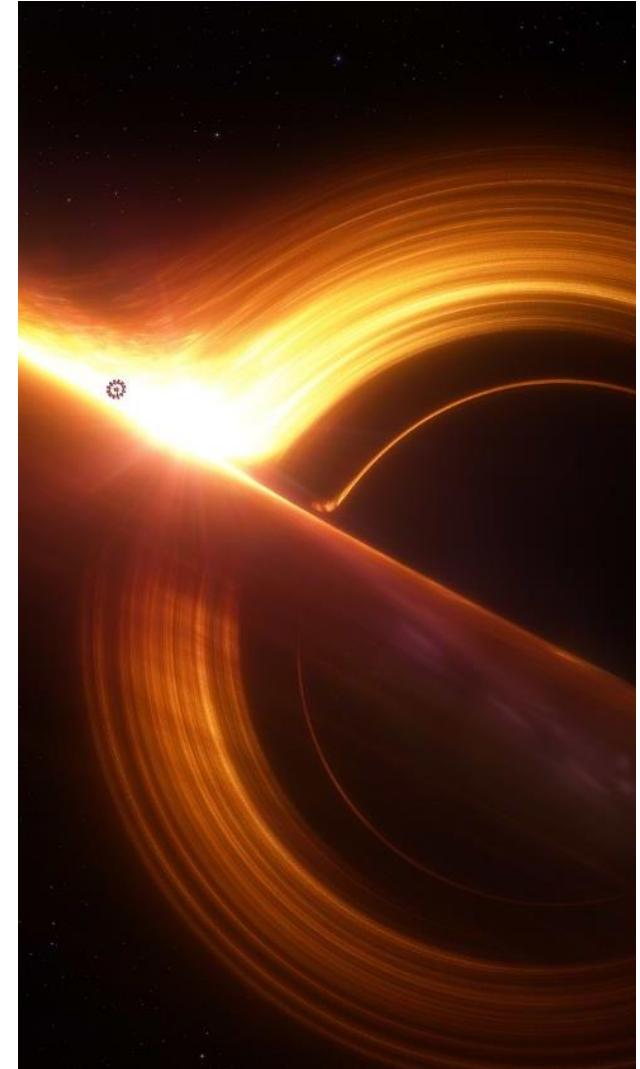
The ancient Syrian god of wealth.

Jesus' teaching on money reveals Mammon as a false god which cannot be trusted, and cannot provide what it promises.



THE BLACK HOLE OF GREED

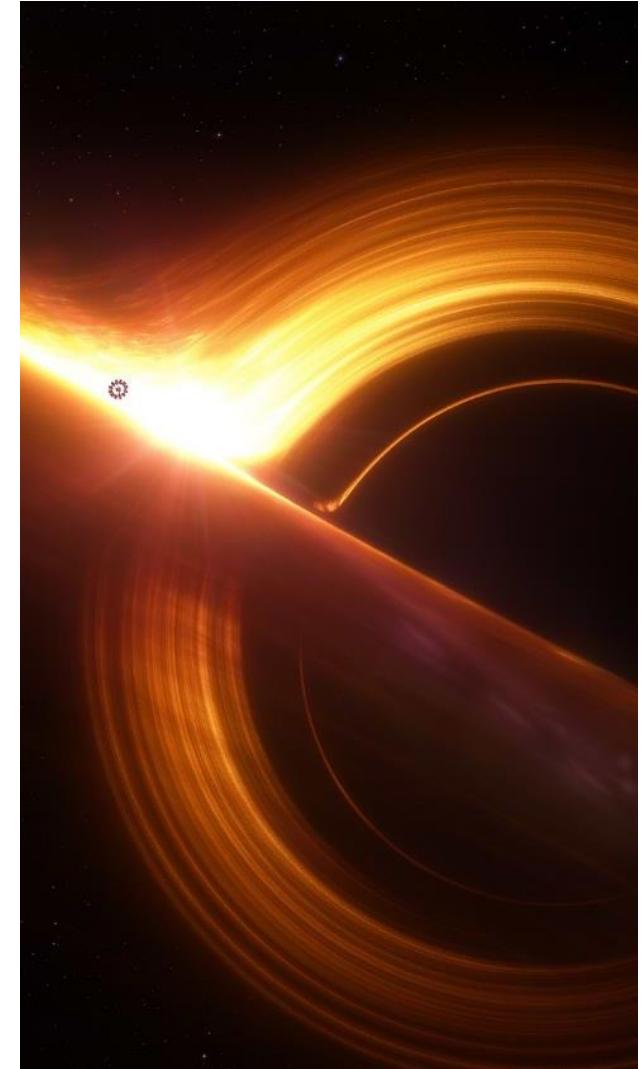
A “black hole” is a region of space with a gravitational field so intense, nothing can escape it.



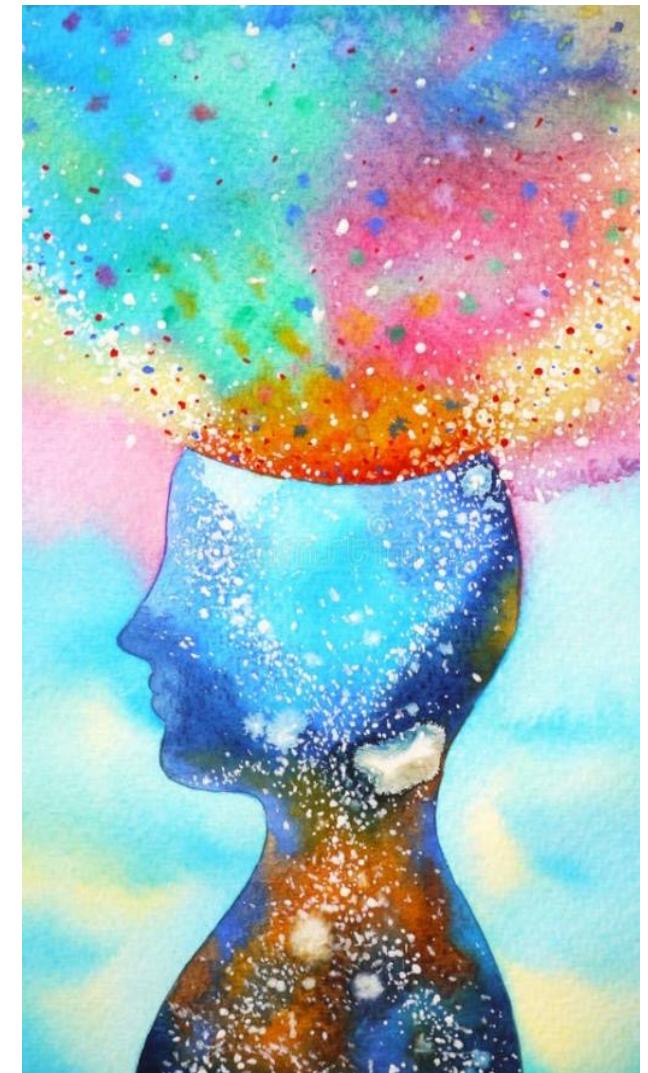
THE BLACK HOLE OF GREED

A “black hole” is a region of space with a gravitational field so intense, nothing can escape it.

For Jesus, generosity is the force that helps us escape the gravitational force of Mammon/money/greed.

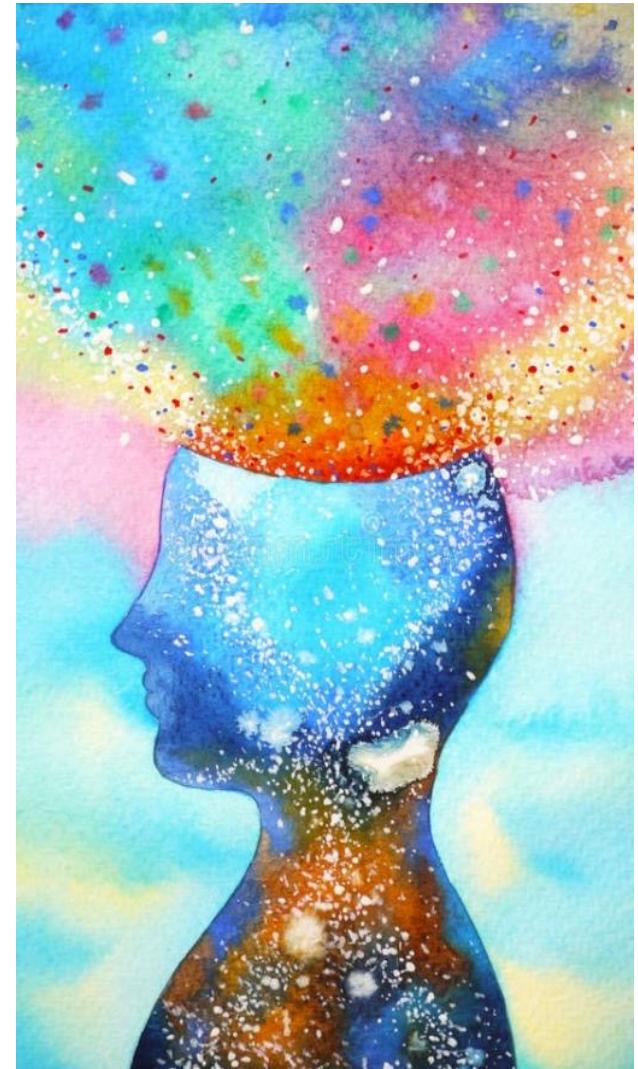


HEAD...HEART...HANDS
IDEAS...FEELINGS...ACTIONS



HEAD...HEART...HANDS **IDEAS...FEELINGS...ACTIONS**

Jesus helps us see God, and our life in God's world. Jesus helps us know what the "good life" really looks like. Jesus helps us begin to grasp a healthy sense of who God is as our good, generous, loving Father.



HEAD...HEART...HANDS

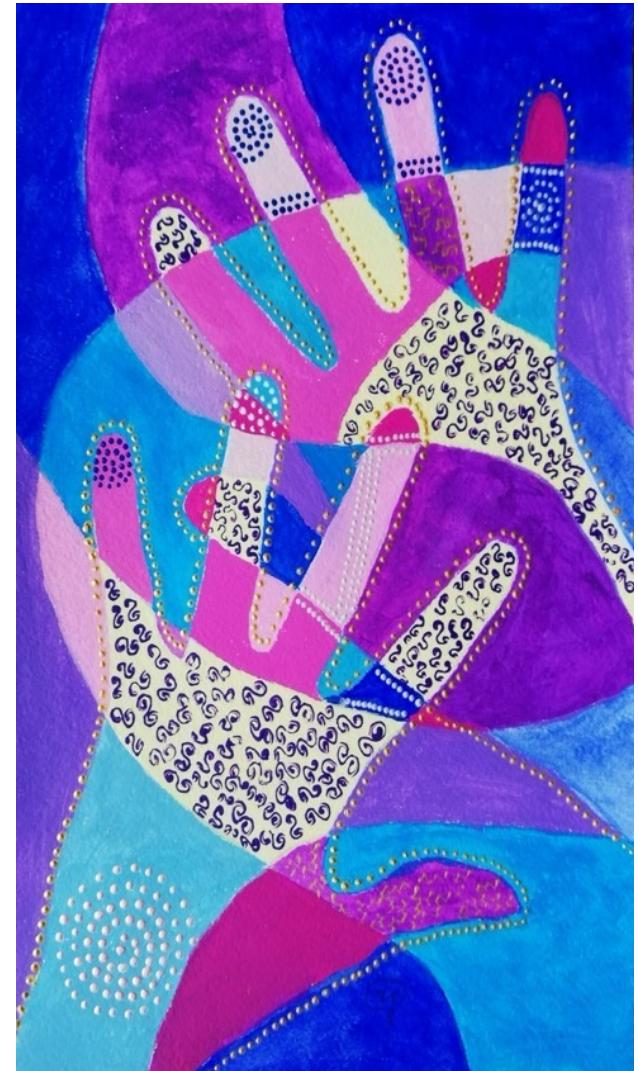
IDEAS...FEELINGS...ACTIONS

Jesus reveals the architecture of our hearts, how our inner life actually functions. If we get this “right,” if we grow a “healthy eye,” it will positively impact every other area in our lives.



HEAD...HEART...HANDS **IDEAS...FEELINGS...ACTIONS**

Jesus gives us a practice to be engaged with over time. This isn't a switch that flips "on" and we're fully transformed in an instant. It is a practice that transforms us, slowly-but-surely, over time, into generous people.



SCARCITY

- Fear → Trust
- Worry → Peace
- Desire → Enjoyment
- Grasping → Gratitude
- Misery → Joy

ABUNDANCE



**Practicing
the Way**

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