

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



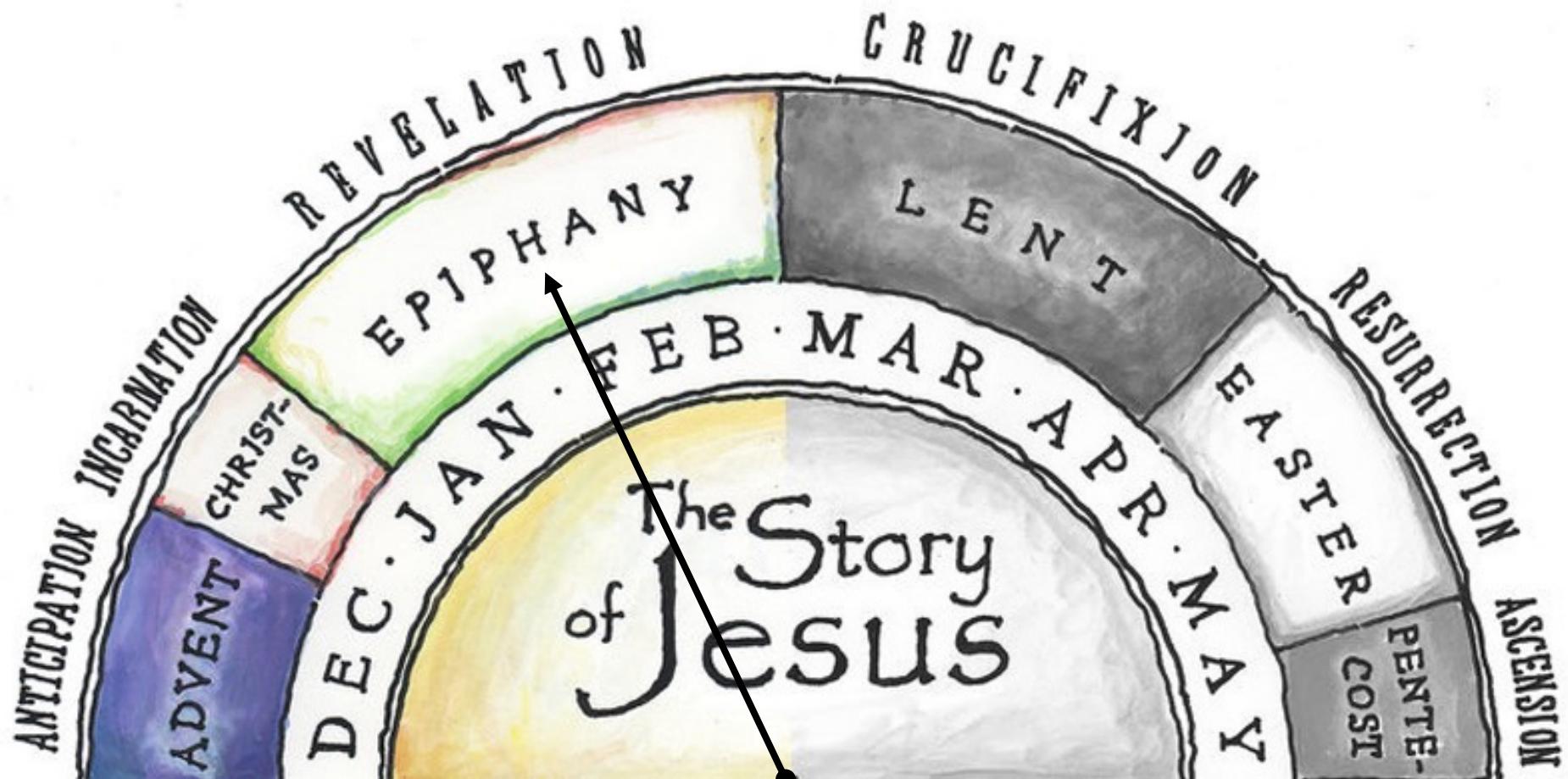
When laws dictate and pain is overlooked...  
When tradition speaks louder than need...  
Grant that we may seek rather to do justice  
than to talk about it.

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



# **THE PRACTICE OF GENEROSITY**

Week 1: Joy

*Week 2: Simplicity*

Week 3: Stewardship

Week 4: Sharing



Expert estimates suggest consumers are exposed to anywhere from 4,000 to 10,000 ads daily. This includes (ads) in all of (their) forms, from traditional media such as TV and billboards to digital marketing sources like social media, websites, and search engines.

# THE AGE OF SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM

THE FIGHT FOR A HUMAN FUTURE AT THE NEW FRONTIER OF POWER

SHOSHANA ZUBOFF

Industrial capitalism transformed nature's raw materials into commodities, and surveillance capitalism lays its claims to the stuff of human nature for a new commodity invention: us. The essence of the exploitation here is the rendering of our lives as behavioral data for the sake of others' improved control of us.

# THE AGE OF SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM

THE FIGHT FOR A HUMAN FUTURE AT THE NEW FRONTIER OF POWER

SHOSHANA ZUBOFF

***Worker/Capitalist*** merge into one (think solo entrepreneurs running AI-fueled companies or gig workers owning their cars).

***Consumer/Commodity*** also fuse (we literally turn ourselves into products —as influencers selling our lifestyles, or platforms mining our personal data).



# **HEDONIC TREADMILL**

We quickly return to a relatively stable level of happiness or sadness despite major positive or negative events/life changes. as a person makes more money, their expectations/desires rise in tandem, which results in no permanent gain in happiness.



## **ECCLESIASTES 5:10**

*Whoever loves money  
never has enough;  
whoever loves wealth  
is never satisfied  
with their income.*



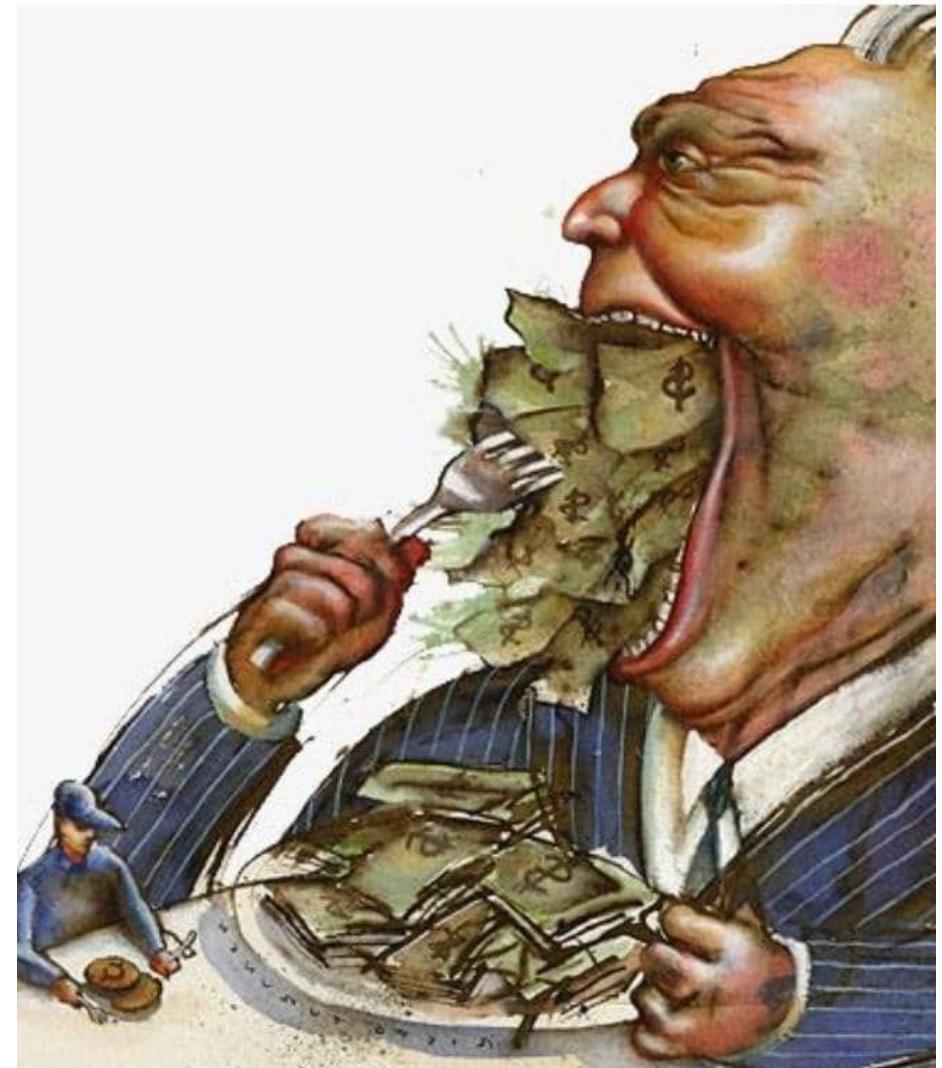
## **LUKE 12:15a**

*Then he said to them,  
“Watch out! Be on your guard  
against all kinds of greed.*



# **GREED**

The insatiable desire  
for more than we  
either want or need



## **HOMER**

You know Mr. Burns,  
you're the richest  
guy I know.

## **MR. BURNS**

Oh, yes. But I'd trade it  
all for just a little more...



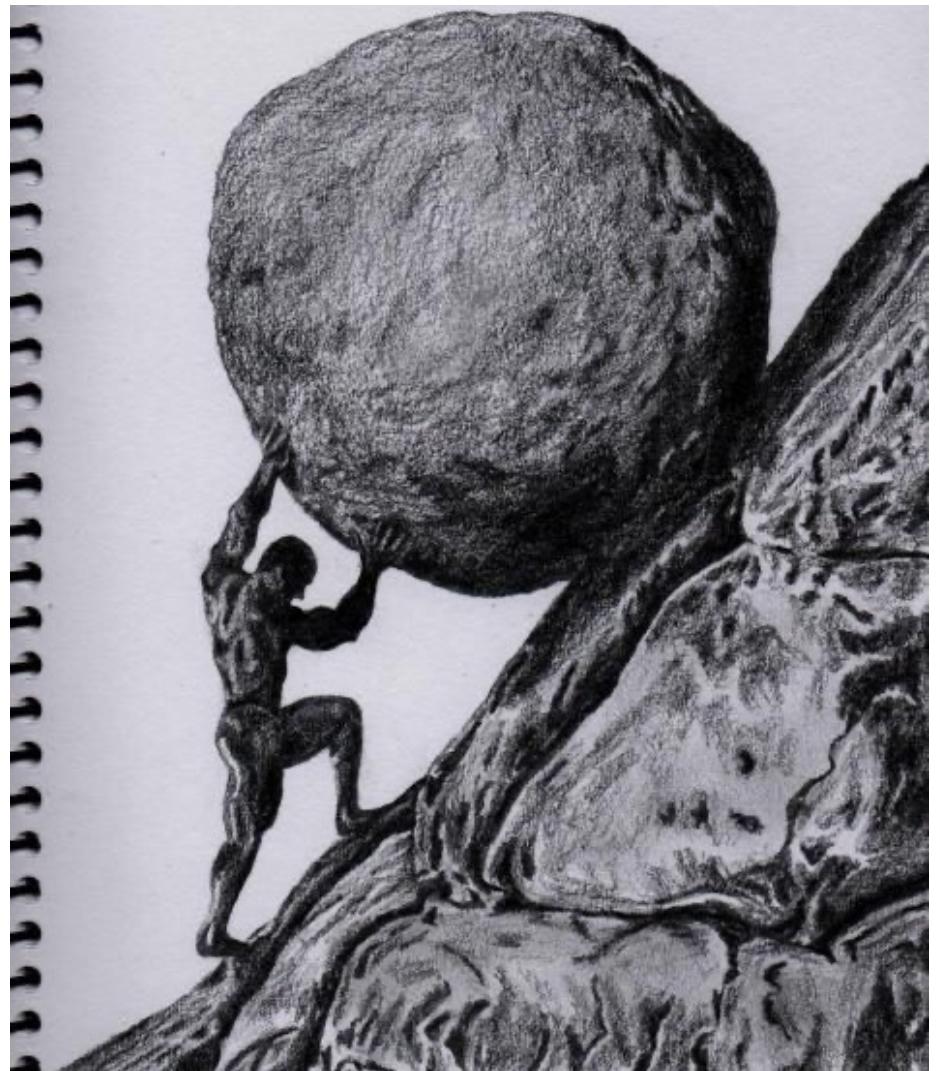
# GREED

The “original sin” behind:

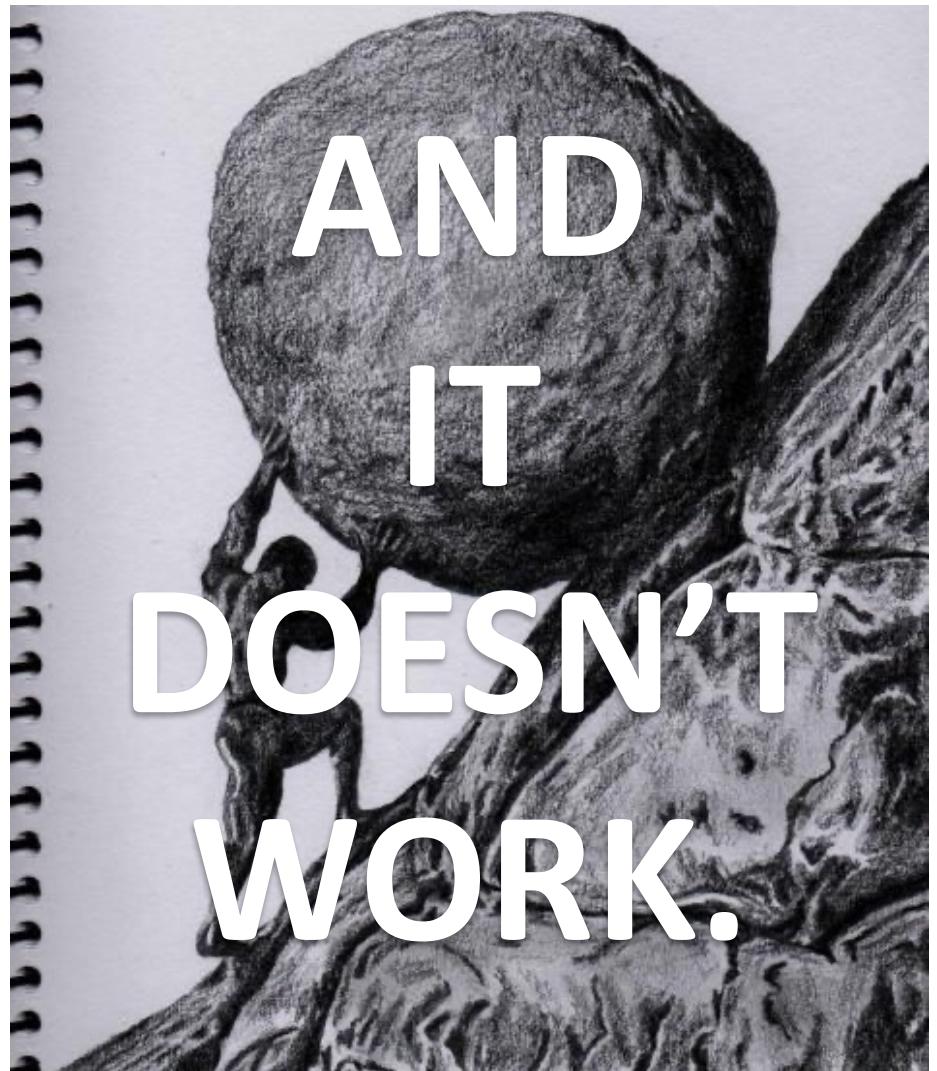
- Slavery
- Westward expansion
- Industrial military complex
- Wars for oil
- 2008 financial crisis
- Online sports gambling



Late-stage capitalistic greed leads us to give our lives to our work, convinces us our value is only found as “producer” or “consumer,” (often for the benefit of those already fabulously rich), so we spend more than we have, to buy more than we need...



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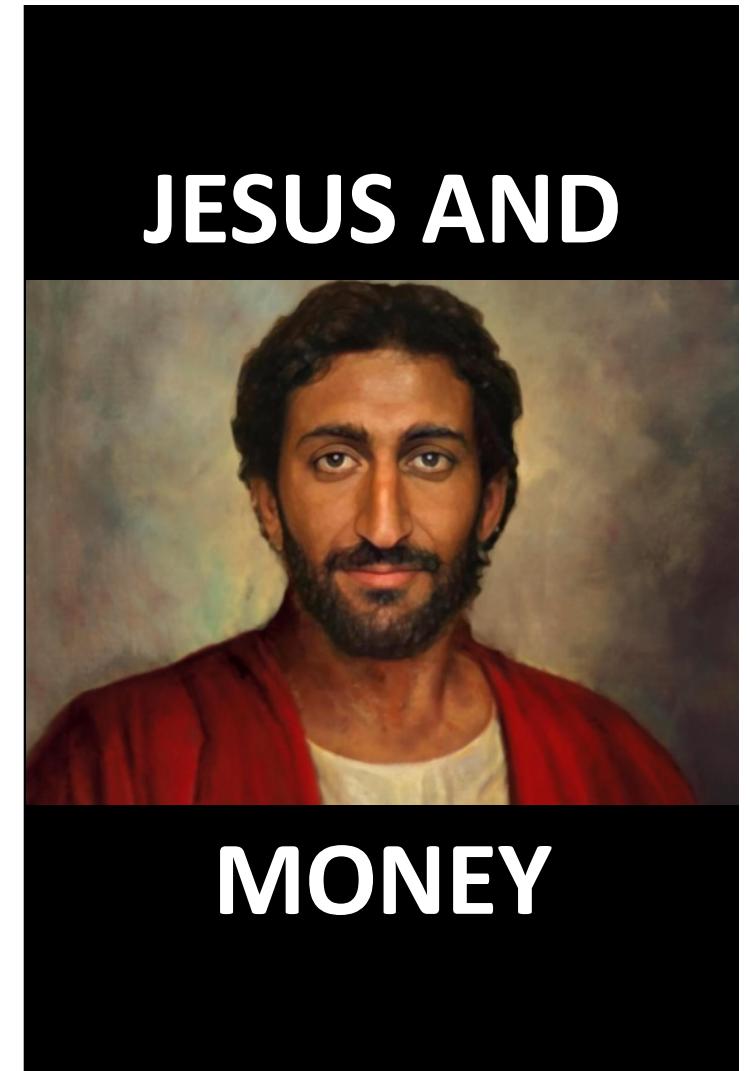


## **LUKE 12:15**

*Then he said to them,  
“Watch out! Be on your guard  
against all kinds of greed.  
Life does not consist in an  
abundance of possessions.”*



1. Money can provide for our basic human needs, but it cannot buy happiness at the level of meaning/identity

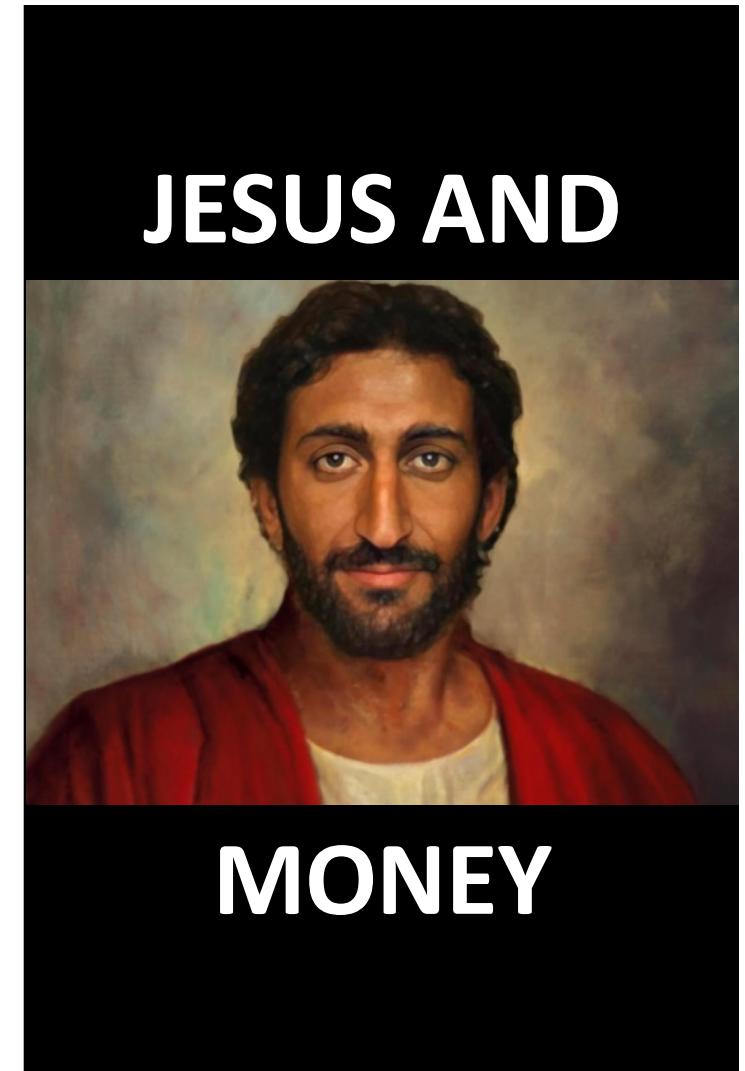


## **MARK 4:18-19**

*Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, **the deceitfulness of wealth** and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.*

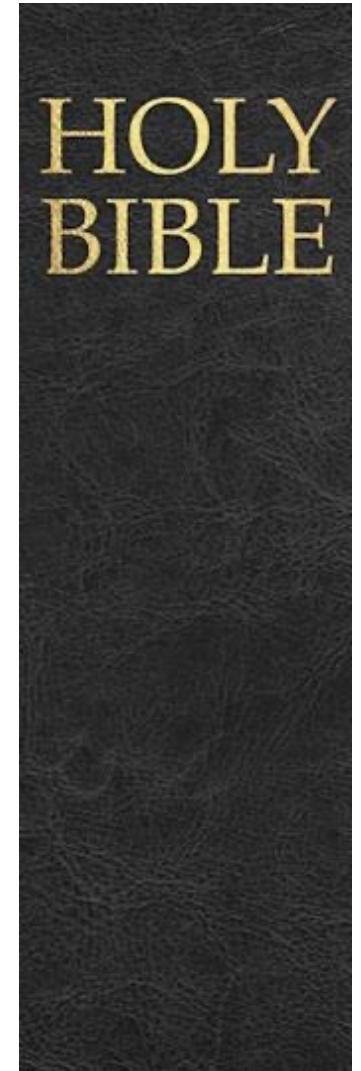


1. Money can provide for our basic human needs, but it cannot buy happiness at the level of meaning/identity
2. Wealth is an obstacle on the path, not the goal of the path

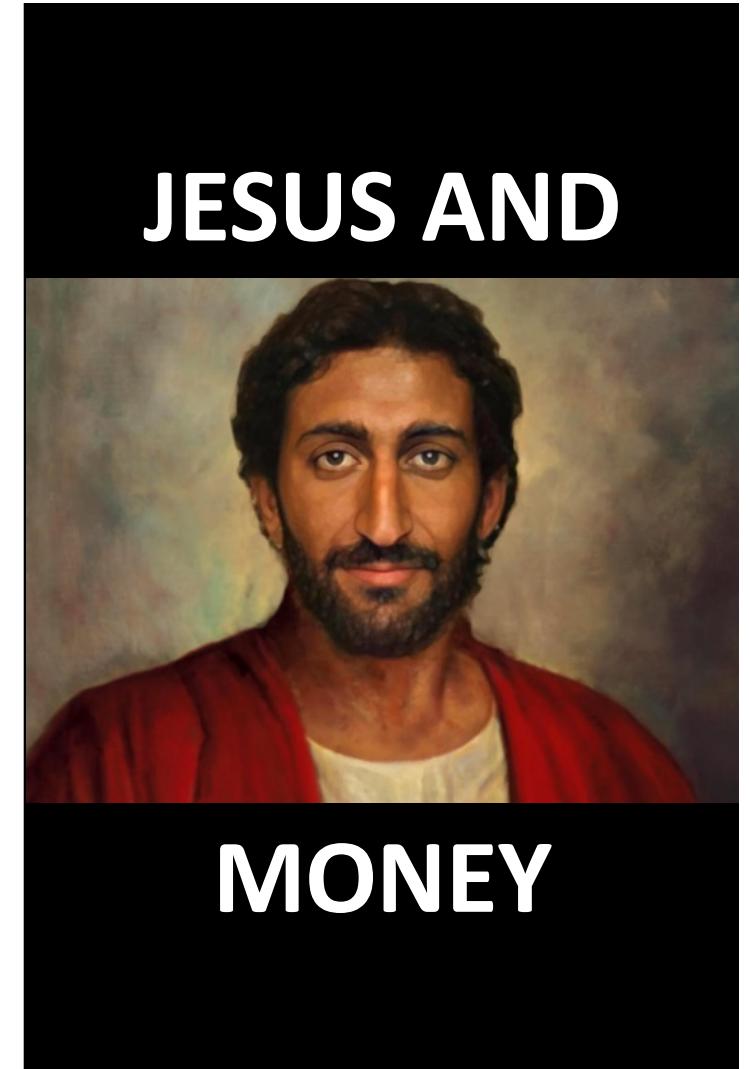


## **MATTHEW 19:23-24**

*Then Jesus said to his disciples,  
“Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone  
who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.  
Again, I tell you, it is easier for a camel  
to go through the eye of a needle  
than for someone who is rich  
to enter the kingdom of God.”*



1. Money can provide for our basic human needs, but it cannot buy happiness at the level of meaning/identity
2. Wealth is an obstacle on the path, not the goal of the path
3. Provision and generosity, not accumulation, is the goal



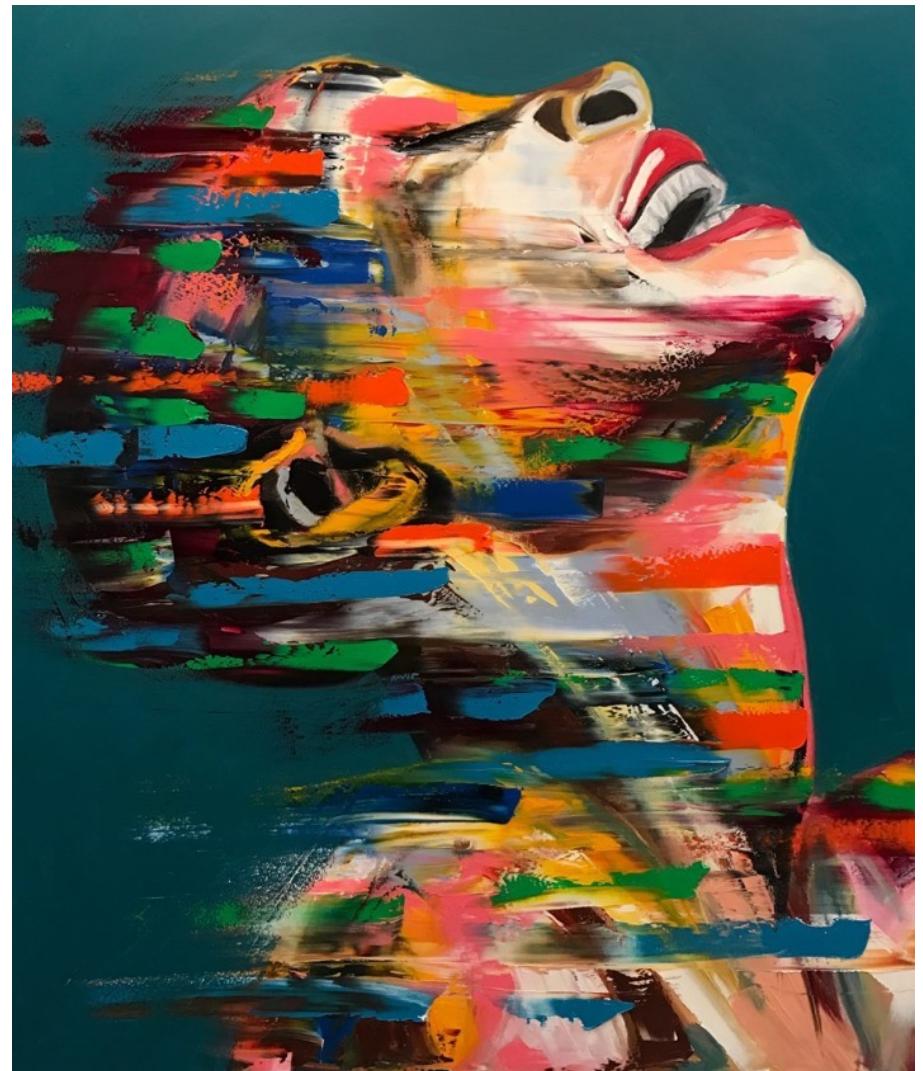
## **LUKE 11:38-41**

*...the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal. Then the Lord said to him, "...you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? But now as for what is inside you—be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.*



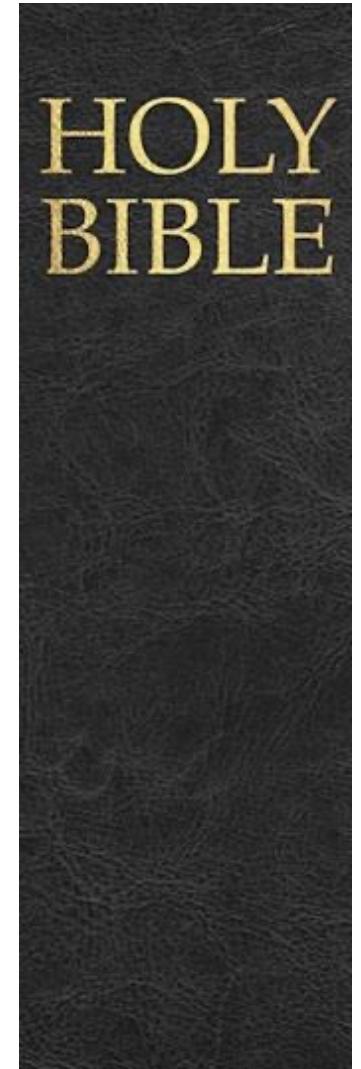
# **CONTENTMENT**

Being happy and grateful for what you have, and freedom from the constant/desperate need for more



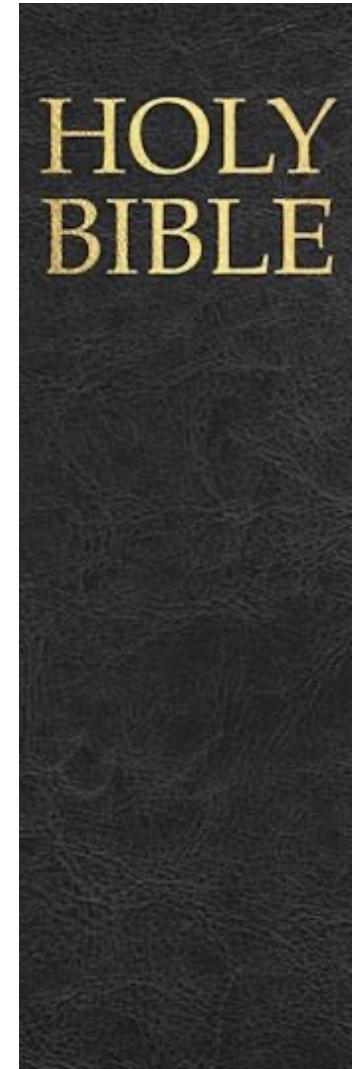
## **1 TIMOTHY 6:6-8**

*But godliness with contentment  
is great gain. For we brought nothing  
into the world, and we can take nothing  
out of it. But if we have food and clothing,  
we will be content with that.*



## **1 TIMOTHY 6:9-10a**

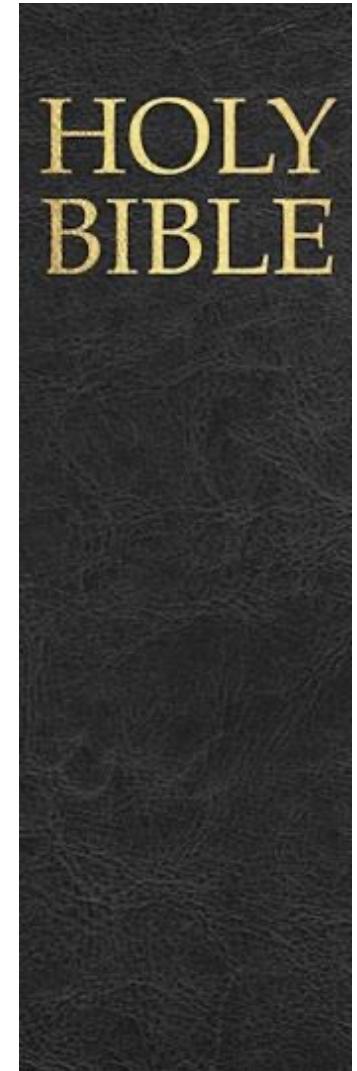
*Those who want to get rich  
fall into temptation and a trap  
and into many foolish and harmful  
desires that plunge people into  
ruin and destruction. For the love  
of money is a root of all kinds of evil.*



## **1 TIMOTHY 6:9-10**

*Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.*

*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*



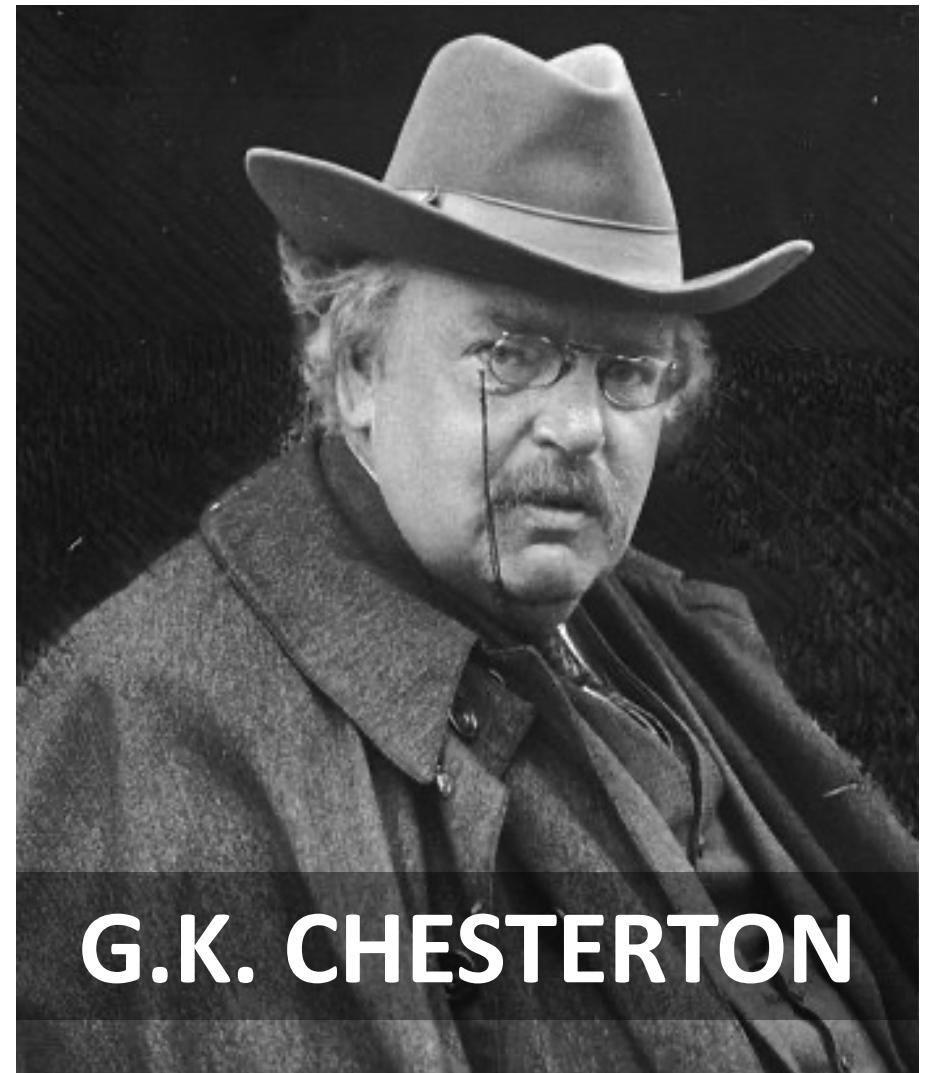
# **GENEROSITY**

**Give**

Growing in  
Christlikeness  
means setting  
healthy limits  
(boundaries)  
leading to  
the freedom  
to *be* generous

**Simplify**

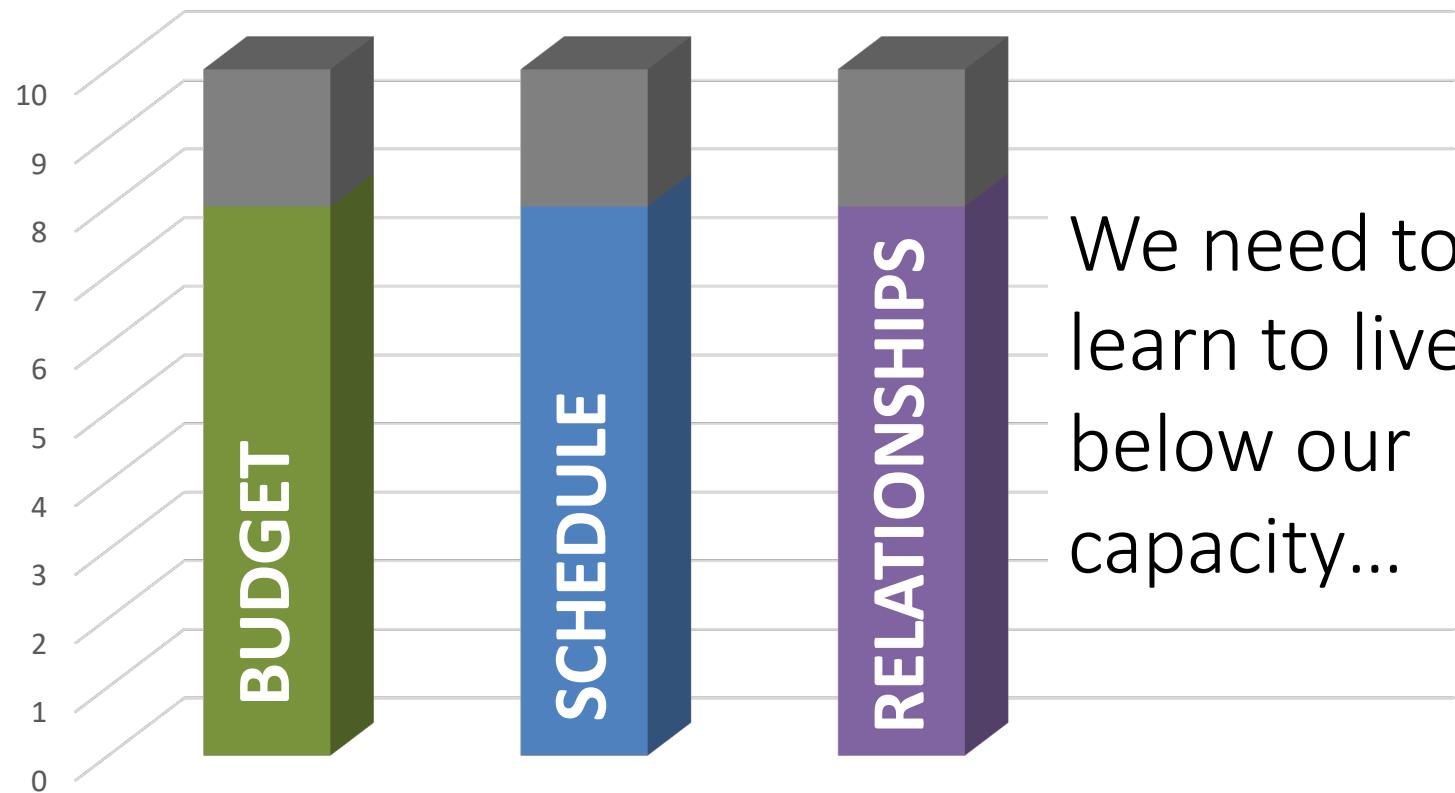
There are two  
ways to get enough.  
One is to continue  
to accumulate  
more and more.  
The other is  
to desire less.



**G.K. CHESTERTON**

# **BUILDING MARGIN INTO OUR LIVES**

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## **HEBREWS 13:5a**

*Keep your lives free  
from the love of money  
and be content with  
what you have...*



## **HEBREWS 13:5**

*Keep your lives free  
from the love of money  
and be content with  
what you have,  
because God has said,  
“Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.”*



## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

- What is your level of contentment, on a scale of 1-10?



## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

- What is your level of contentment, on a scale of 1-10?
- Where are you experiencing a lack of margin in your life?  
***(Budget? Schedule? Relationships?)***



## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

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- Where are you experiencing a lack of margin in your life?
- What is one area you can simplify?



## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

- What is your level of contentment, on a scale of 1-10?
- Where are you experiencing a lack of margin in your life?
- What is one area you can simplify?
- What is one thing you can express genuine gratitude for right now?



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