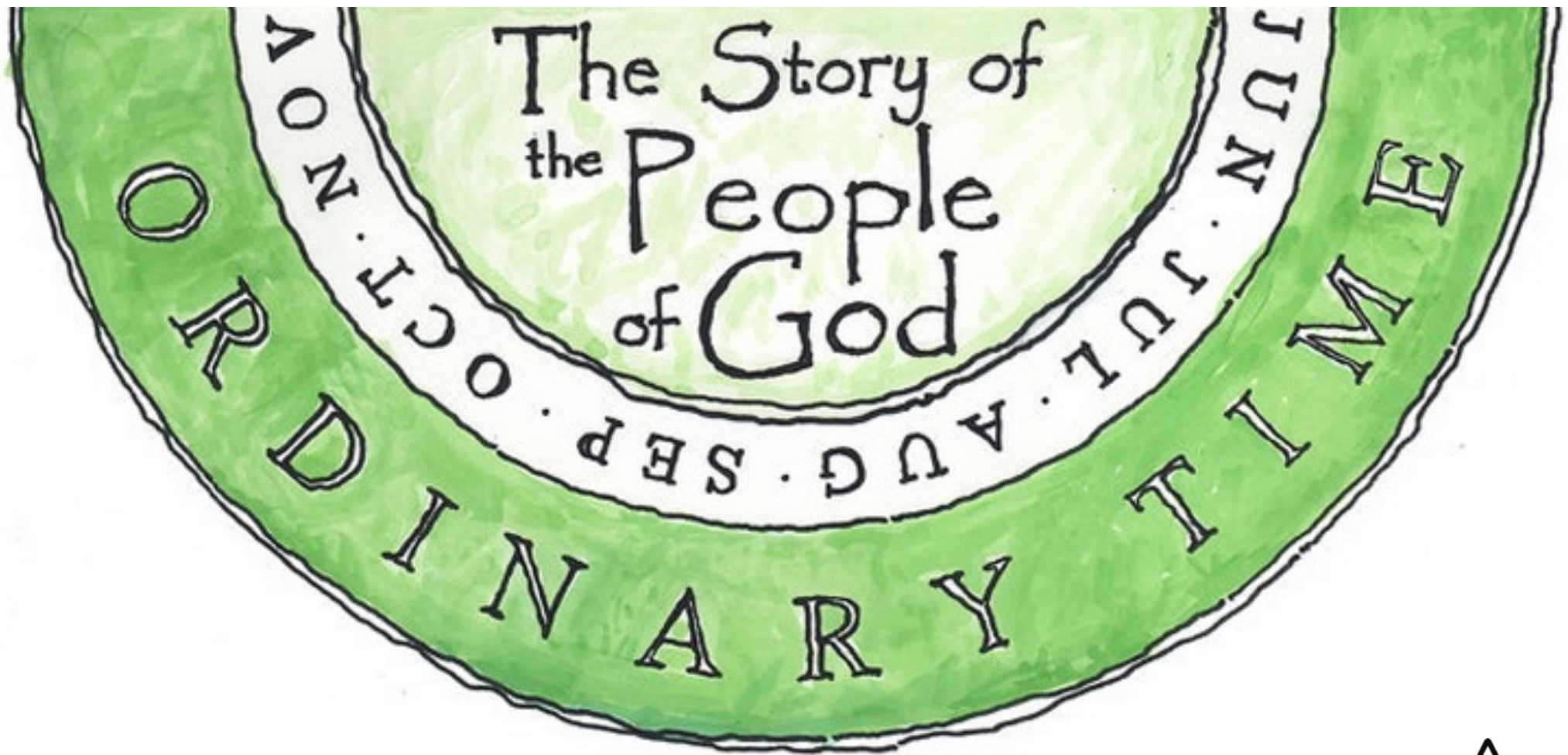


God of power and liberation,
provider of freedom and wisdom,
be our Passover from the land of injustice,
and the light that leads us to the perfect
rule of love, that we may be citizens
of your unimpeded reign;
we ask in the name of Jesus,
Amen.

Opening Prayer

A decorative banner at the bottom of the slide. It features a dark background with several hands of different colors (red, green, blue, purple) reaching out and holding a cluster of colorful circles (red, green, blue, purple, yellow). The hands are stylized with white outlines.



GOOD/BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY

The *Christ-Centered* Community

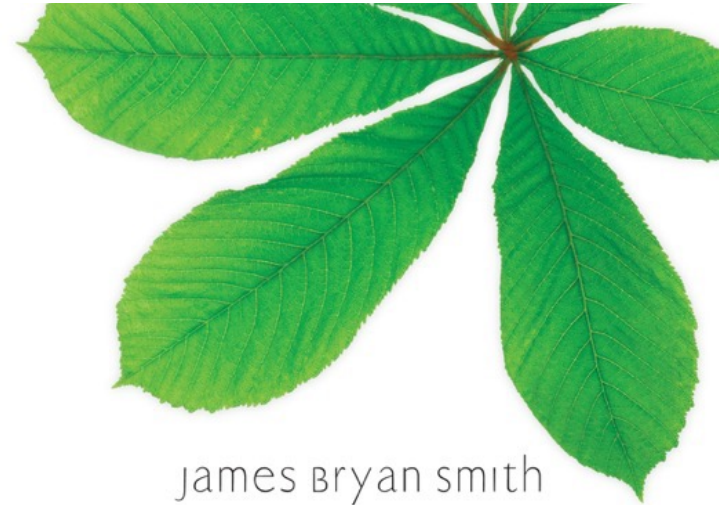
The *Worshipping* Community

The *Reconciling* Community

The *Hopeful* Community

The *Encouraging* Community

The *Serving* Community



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FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT, EXTENDING GRACE,
DEMONSTRATING LOVE

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

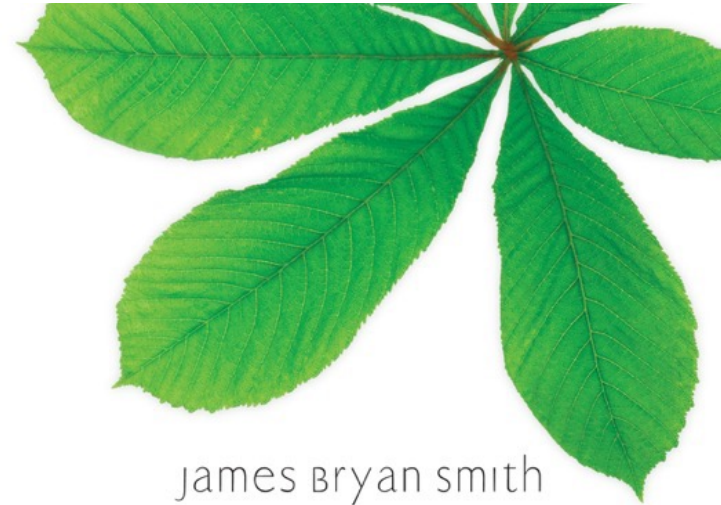
HOLY
BIBLE

2 COR

5:18-19

VENGEANCE

The desire to exact punishment for a wrong done to self or another, especially in resentment or vindictiveness



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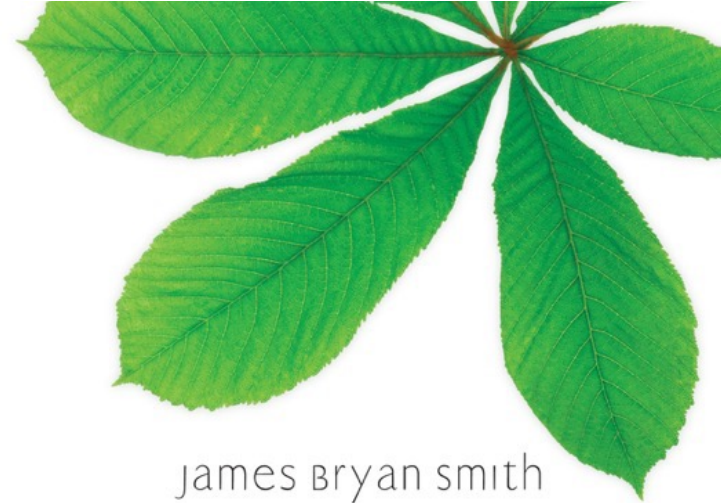
—DALLAS WILLARD

VENGEANCE

The desire to exact punishment for a wrong done to self or another, especially in resentment or vindictiveness

RECONCILIATION

To bring into agreement or harmony



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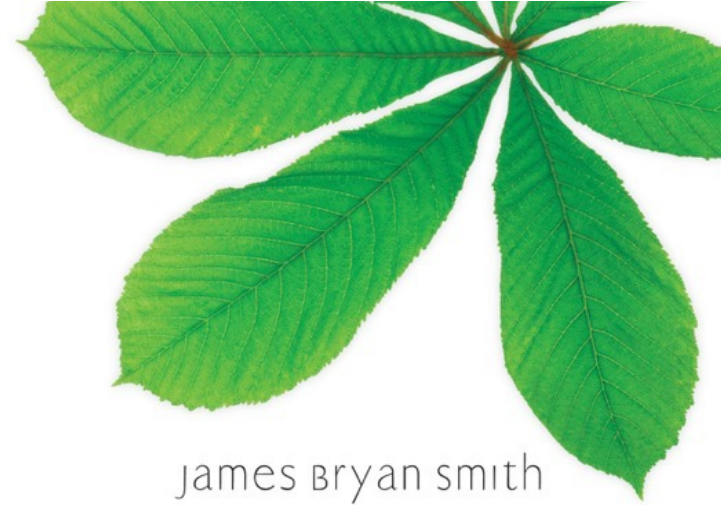
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FALSE NARRATIVE

Only when we forgive will
we be forgiven and healed
**(a form of denial leading
to performative forgiveness)**



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FORGIVENESS

a conscious, intentional decision to release feelings of resentment, bitterness, and anger toward someone who has harmed or offended you

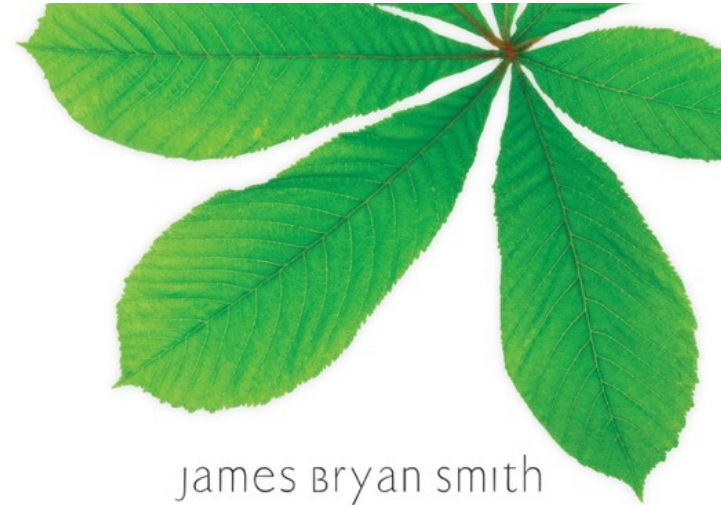


FALSE NARRATIVE

Only when we forgive will
we be forgiven and healed
**(a form of denial leading
to performative forgiveness)**

TRUE NARRATIVE

Knowing we have been forgiven
leads to healing and forgiveness



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We can only* forgive when
we know we have been forgiven,
when we are certain that we live
in the strong, safe kingdom of God.

****It's often much easier to...***



JAMES BRYAN
SMITH

For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;*

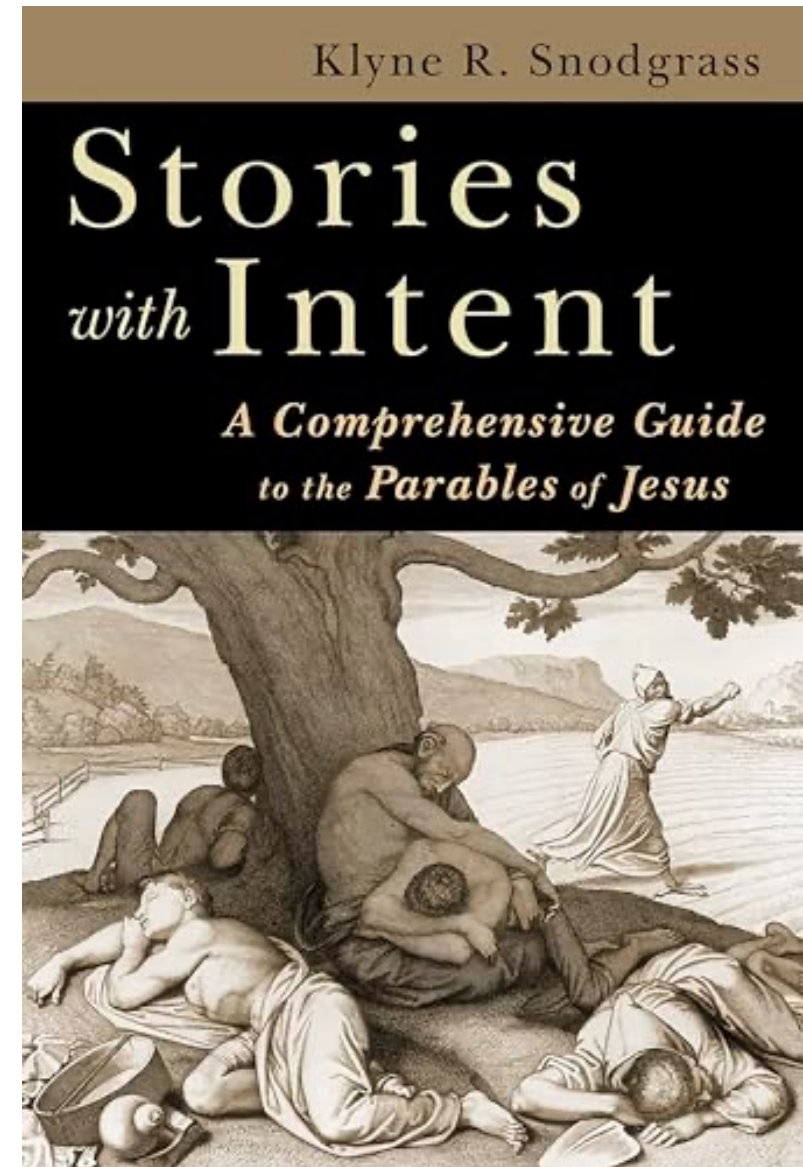
and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

HOLY
BIBLE

MATT

18:23-25

A talent is a measurement of weight in gold, silver, or copper. Ten thousand talents = about 204 metric tons. Depending on the metal used, a talent = 6,000 denarii, making the debt 60,000,000 denarii; one denarii/day would take 164,000 years to repay!



For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.*

HOLY
BIBLE

MATT
18:23-25

*So, the slave fell on his knees
before him, saying, "Have patience
with me, and I will pay you everything."
And out of pity for him, the lord
of that slave released him
and forgave him the debt.*

HOLY
BIBLE

MATT

18:26-27

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt.

HOLY
BIBLE

MATT

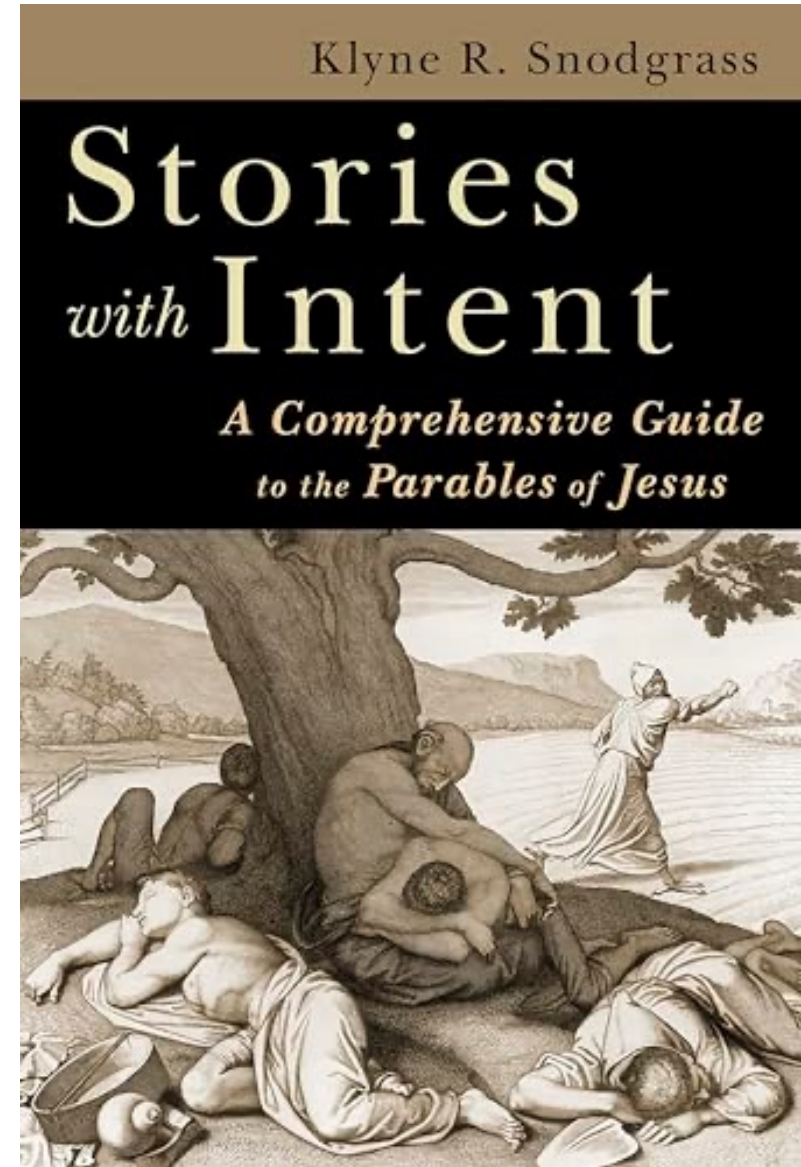
18:28-30

When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and went and reported (it) to their lord... Then his lord summoned him and said, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he (paid) his entire debt.

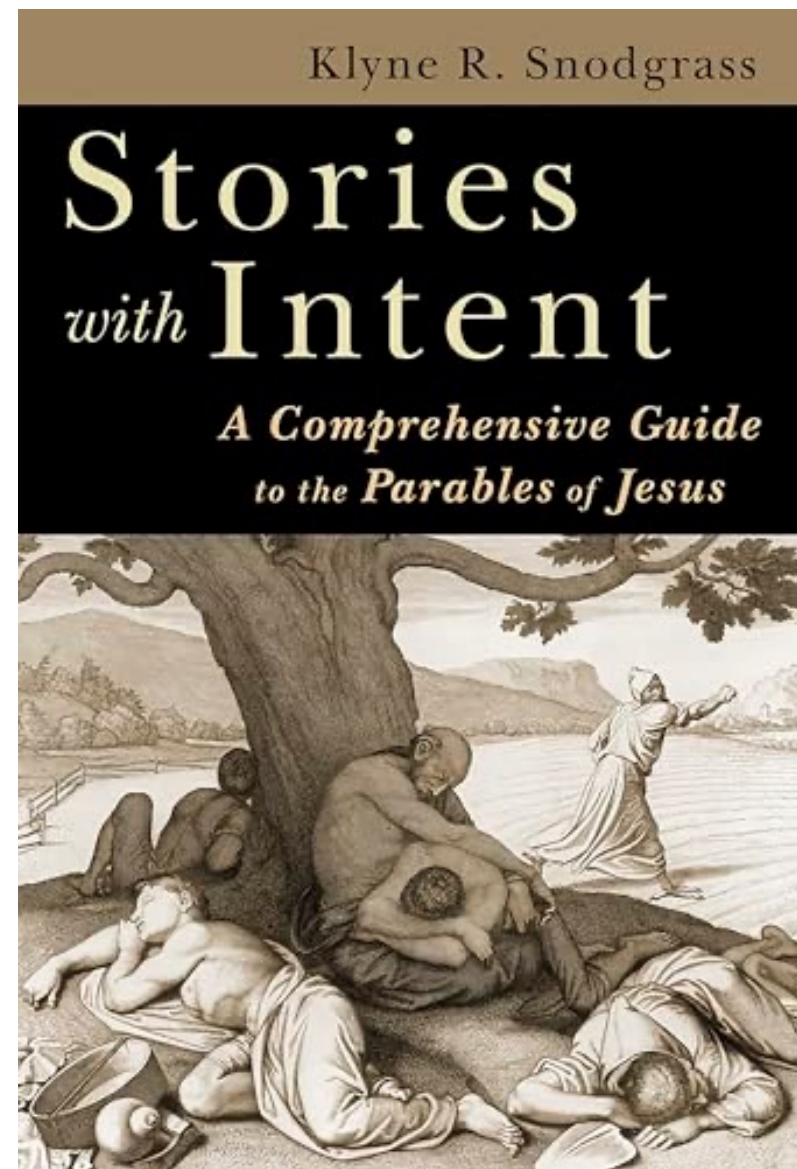
HOLY
BIBLE

MATT
18:31-34

As much as people recoil from the theme of judgment, it is an integral part of Jesus' kingdom message. The kingdom cannot be present if evil is not being named and defeated. If there is no judgment, salvation is not needed.



The judgment language (here, however) is hyperbole, not a description of actuality, (*i.e. Jesus is not saying this is what God is like!*) but it assures people there will be a reckoning and that God will vindicate the oppressed.



(In this parable) Jesus is simply trying to show us the absurdity of accepting God's forgiveness for our sins, and yet refusing to forgive the sins done against us. It is absurd to glory in the forgiveness God has given us and yet remain unwilling to forgive someone who has harmed us.



(According to Paul), it is utterly inappropriate for one who knows the joy and release of being forgiven to refuse to share that blessing with another. (It is also) highly presumptuous to refuse to forgive one whom Christ himself has already forgiven



RECONCILIATION

Is not empty, shallow forgiveness where wrongs are brushed aside, ignored, or overlooked, and where no consequences are required for the guilty party



RECONCILIATION

Based on the acknowledgement of past injustice, the acceptance of responsibility, and steps towards (re-)building trust; often understood as going beyond formal conflict resolution to a long-term communal relationship-(re-)building process



**THINGS THAT CAN
SIMPLY BE FORGIVEN**

**THINGS REQUIRING
SOMETHING...MORE**

**Miscommunication
Misunderstanding
Simple Mistakes
Unintentional Hurts**

**THINGS THAT CAN
SIMPLY BE FORGIVEN**

**Miscommunication
Misunderstanding
Simple Mistakes
Unintentional Hurts**

**THINGS REQUIRING
SOMETHING...MORE**

**Emotional Abuse
Physical Abuse/Assault
Sexual Abuse/Assault
Spiritual Abuse
Financial Impropriety**

Though we are all called to love by forgiving, we need to be careful when and how we do this. Though we are called to be reconciled, we are not called to be abused or be repeatedly harmed by someone. Though we are called to bear another's burdens, we must remove ourselves from persons or situations that take advantage of or can hurt us.



Second (*we need to be aware of*) the “forgiveness ambush,” those times when (*we approach someone, privately/publicly because we have a perceived*) need to forgive/feel forgiven (*and we*) disregard the hurt it may cause the person we are forgiving or asking for forgiveness. If we truly have forgiven someone, we will not need to alert them to it.



FORGIVENESS and RECONCILIATION...

- Cannot be forced
- Cannot be rushed
- Does not = earned trust
- Does not = restored relationship
- They are the **goal**, but may not always be the **reality**



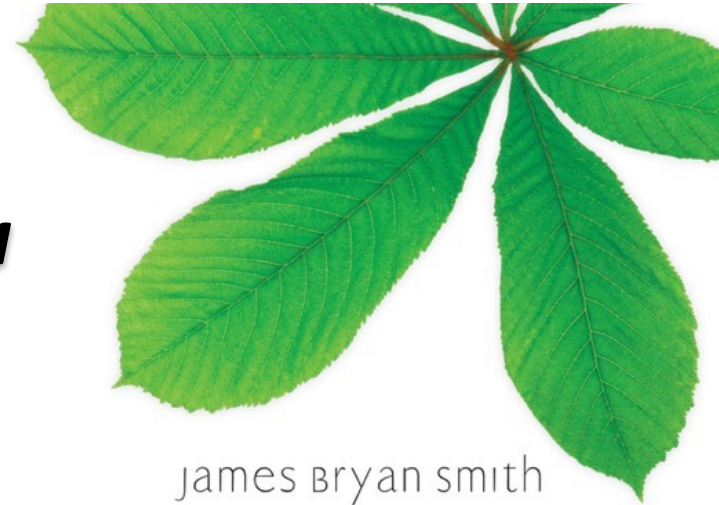


THE BODIES BEHIND THE BUS

SOUL TRAINING EXERCISE

1. Allowing others to forgive for you

- Identify who you want to forgive, but aren't able to do so quite yet
- Ask a trusted person to carry the burden of forgiveness for you
- They agree to commit to daily pray for everyone involved



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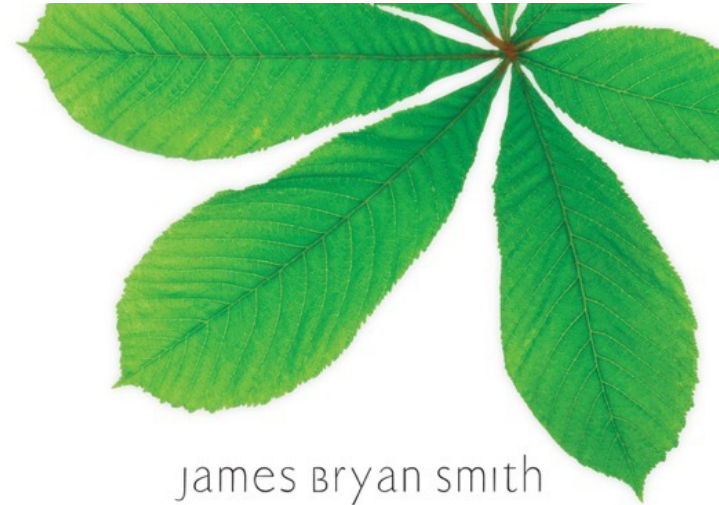
"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD

SOUL TRAINING EXERCISE

2. Steps to forgiving others

- *Identity*: you are loved/forgiven
- *Perspective*: seeking God's heart for the person/people involved, and acknowledging your lack of knowledge about all that person has experienced that may have led to the harm they inflicted on you



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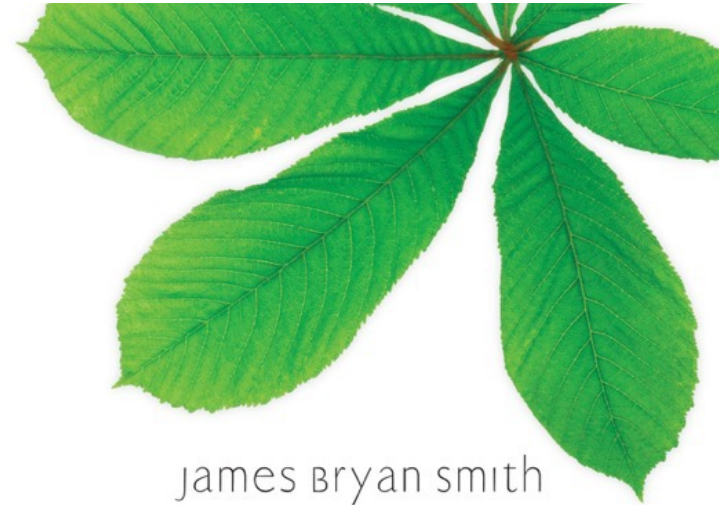
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SOUL TRAINING EXERCISE

3. Revisiting the Lord's Supper

Reflect on our shared identity
as those who have been forgiven
and reconciled to God



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Faithful God,
hope of the oppressed,
and the source of freedom
for those held captive:

Make us strong to proclaim your liberating power,
in generosity of life, and in humility of spirit,
that all the world may delight in your goodness.
Amen.

Closing Prayer





MORTGAGE

Payoff

'26 – '27 REQUIRES 4.7% INCREASE IN GIVING

If You Give \$100/mo, That's \$105/mo

If you Give \$500/mo, That's \$525/mo

If You Give \$800/mo, That's \$840/mo



MORTGAGE

Payoff

WHAT WE NEED PER MONTH TO FUNCTION

We need an average of \$21,592/mo

August Giving was \$19,129

Eliminate the mortgage, that's only \$856 off!



MORTGAGE

Payoff

MATCHING GRANT // NOW – NOVEMBER 1

Payoff estimated @ \$15,700

Goal = Raise 50%, Use Savings for other %50

The more we raise, the less savings we'll use



MORTGAGE

Payoff

THE MORE WE RAISE, THE MORE WE SAVE

Raise \$7,850, Use \$7,850

Raise \$10,000, Use \$5,700

Raise \$15,700, Use \$0

A black and white photograph of two hands cupped together, holding a large pile of copper coins. The word "GIVING" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters.

GIVING

WAYS to GIVE

ONLINE

Give here online, using the form to the right!

For existing givers: first, set up a new recurring gift through your bank account, then login to your CCB account to cancel your former recurring gifts.

IN PERSON

We have two secure giving boxes, each equipped with sealable envelopes to help you safely give by cash, check, or credit/debit card. Giving boxes are located on the north/south end of the east riser.

BY MAIL

Feel free to mail gifts directly:

Vintage Church

1501 New Hampshire St

Lawrence, KS 66044

(NOTE: Gifts given on/before 12.31

are applied to this year's giving records)

\$0

I'm giving with...

Card / Bank account

Fund

Mortgage Payoff - Fall 2026

Frequency

One-time

Weekly

Monthly

Every two weeks

Continue to give \$0.00

or

 Log in to your giving account