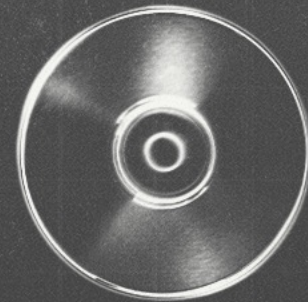


Generation to **GENERATION**

Uncommon Parenting Conference





How (Not) to Raise a Pharisee

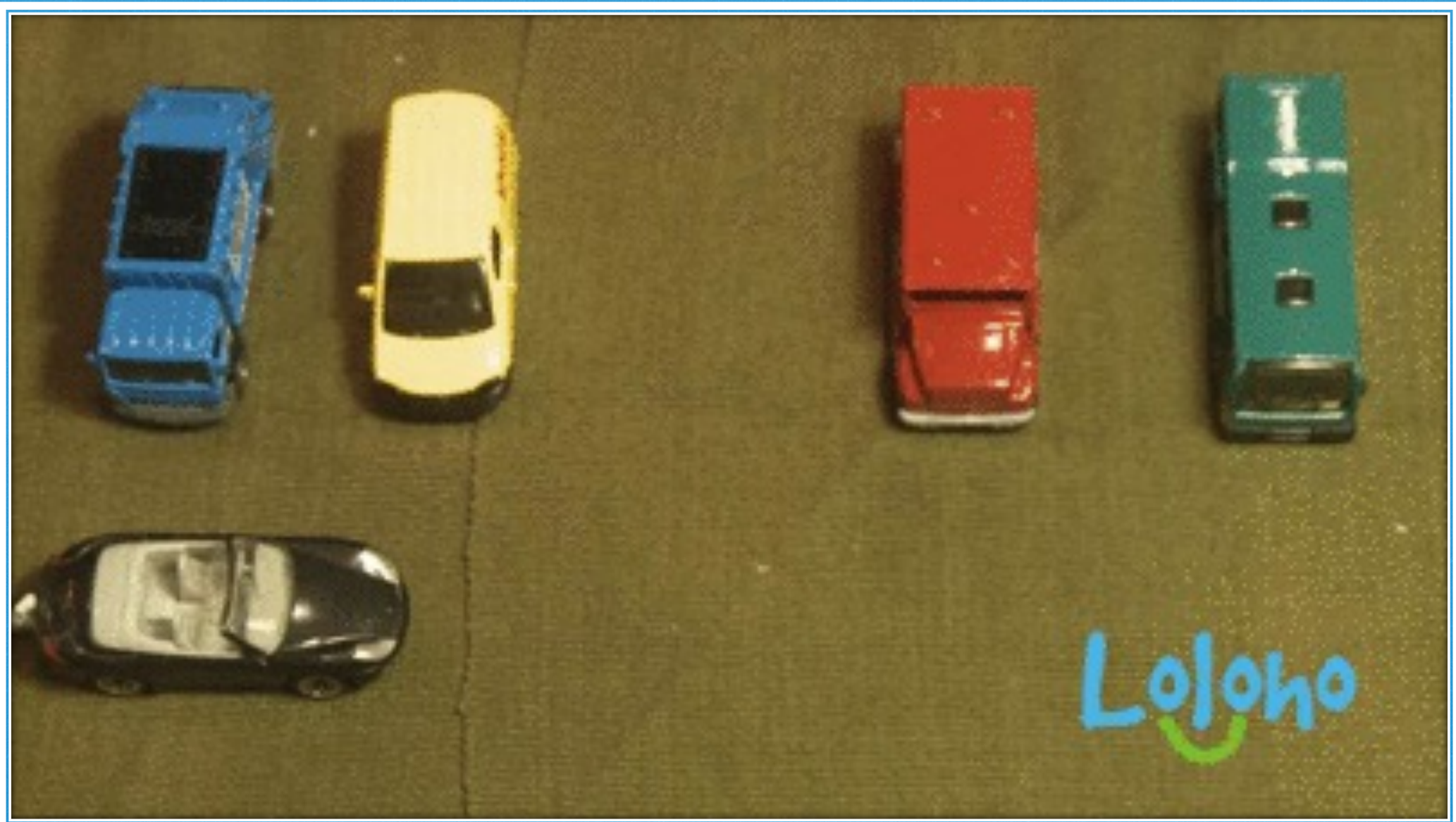
Chris Sherrod

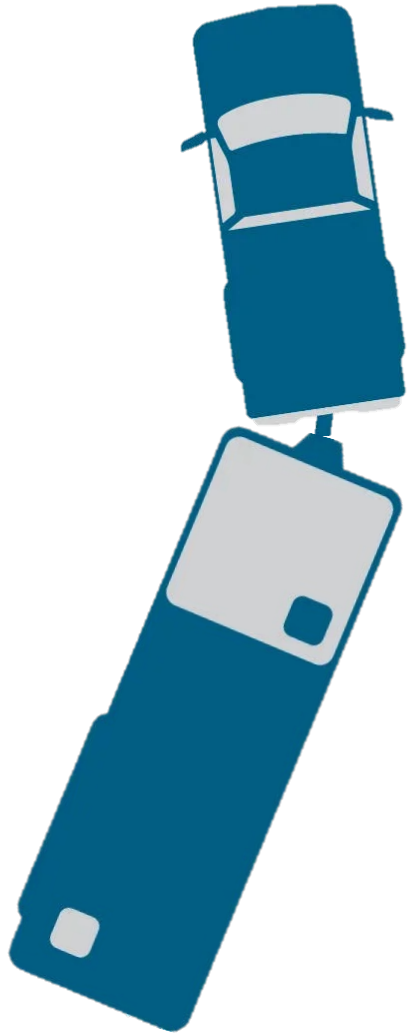
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Premise: It's not wrong to want well behaved kids

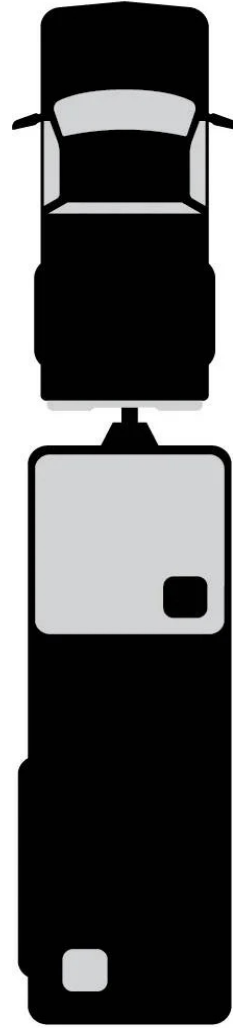


But many of us so desire to avoid raising a prodigal (“younger brother”) that we can unintentionally raise a self-righteous “older brother.” How do we live in the tension between outward behavior and an obedient heart secure in God’s love?

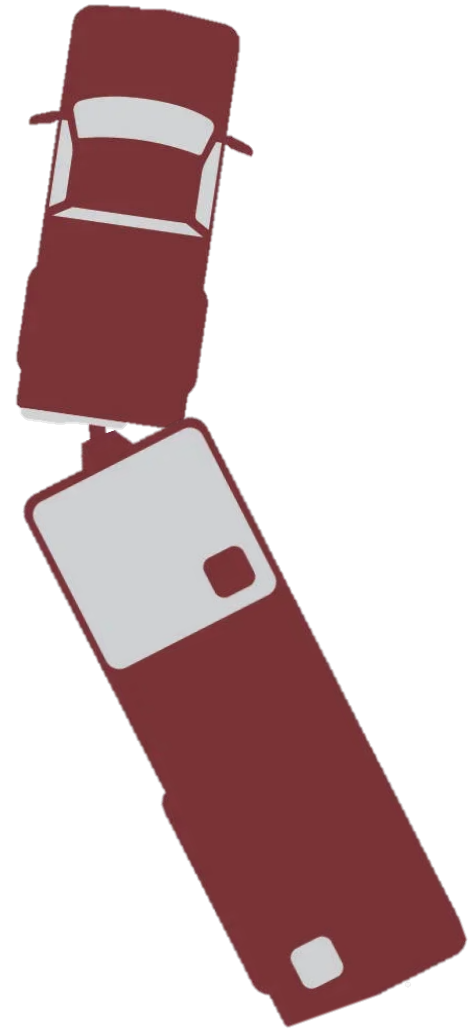




Legalism



the
GOSPEL



License

God, in His inexpressibly
holy love, sent His Son to
live the life we could not
live and die the death we
deserve to die so that
everyone who trusts in Him
can be freely reconciled to
God as His adopted child



“For our sake he made
him to be sin who knew
no sin, so that in him we
might become the
righteousness of God.”

– 2 Corinthians 5:21

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

– Ephesians 2:8-9

“Since our good works did not earn God’s affection, bad works cannot sever that affection.”

– Charles Spurgeon



“Now I would remind you,
brothers, of the gospel I
preached to you, which you
received, in which you
stand, and by which you are
being saved”

– 1 Corinthians 15:1-2



What do we mean by Pharisee?

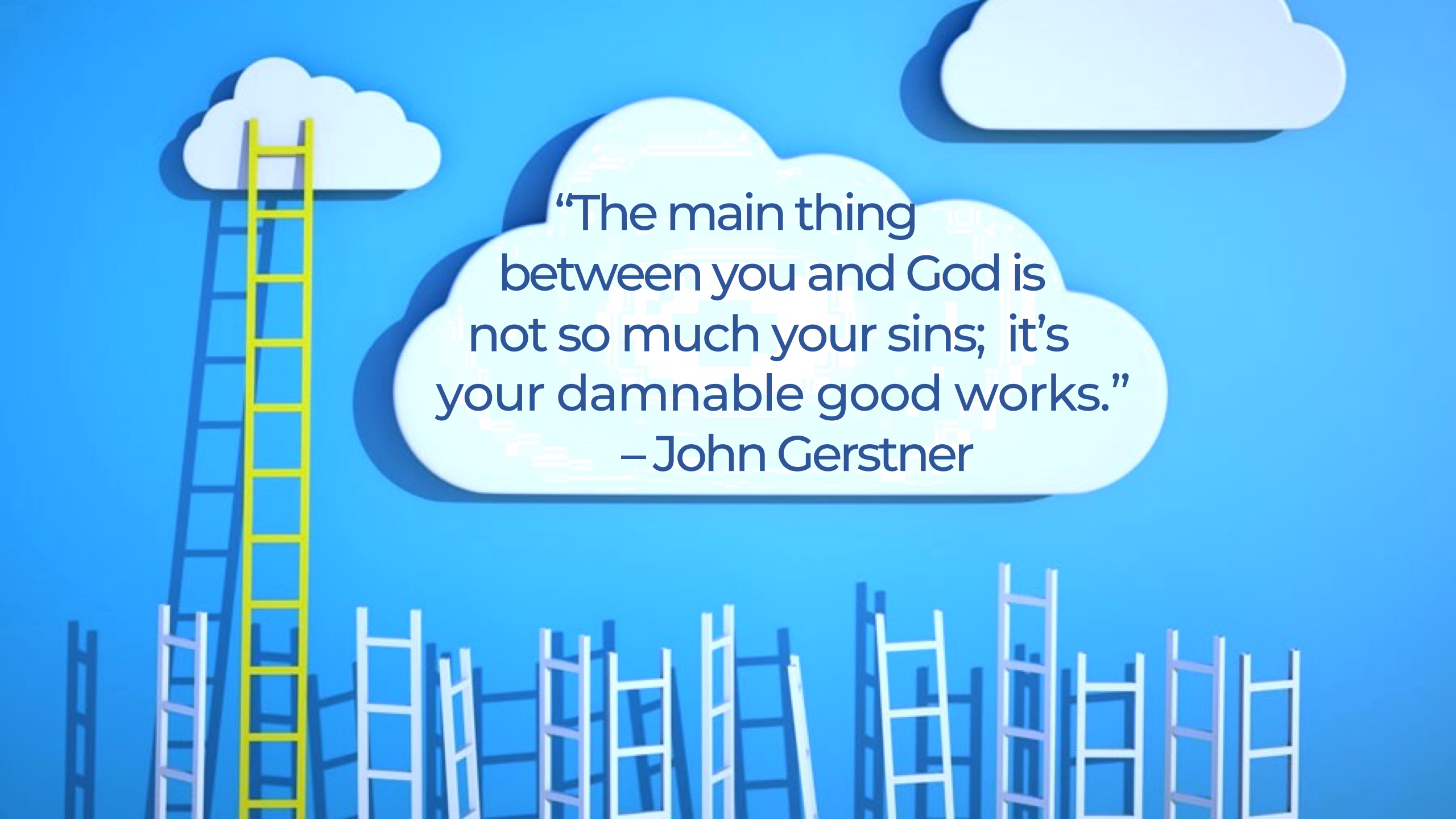


“They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues” – Matthew 23:5-6

“Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness... But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God” – Luke 11:39, 42

“You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts” – Luke 16:15





“The main thing
between you and God is
not so much your sins; it’s
your damnable good works.”
– John Gerstner

The 'play actor'

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them... Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others.”

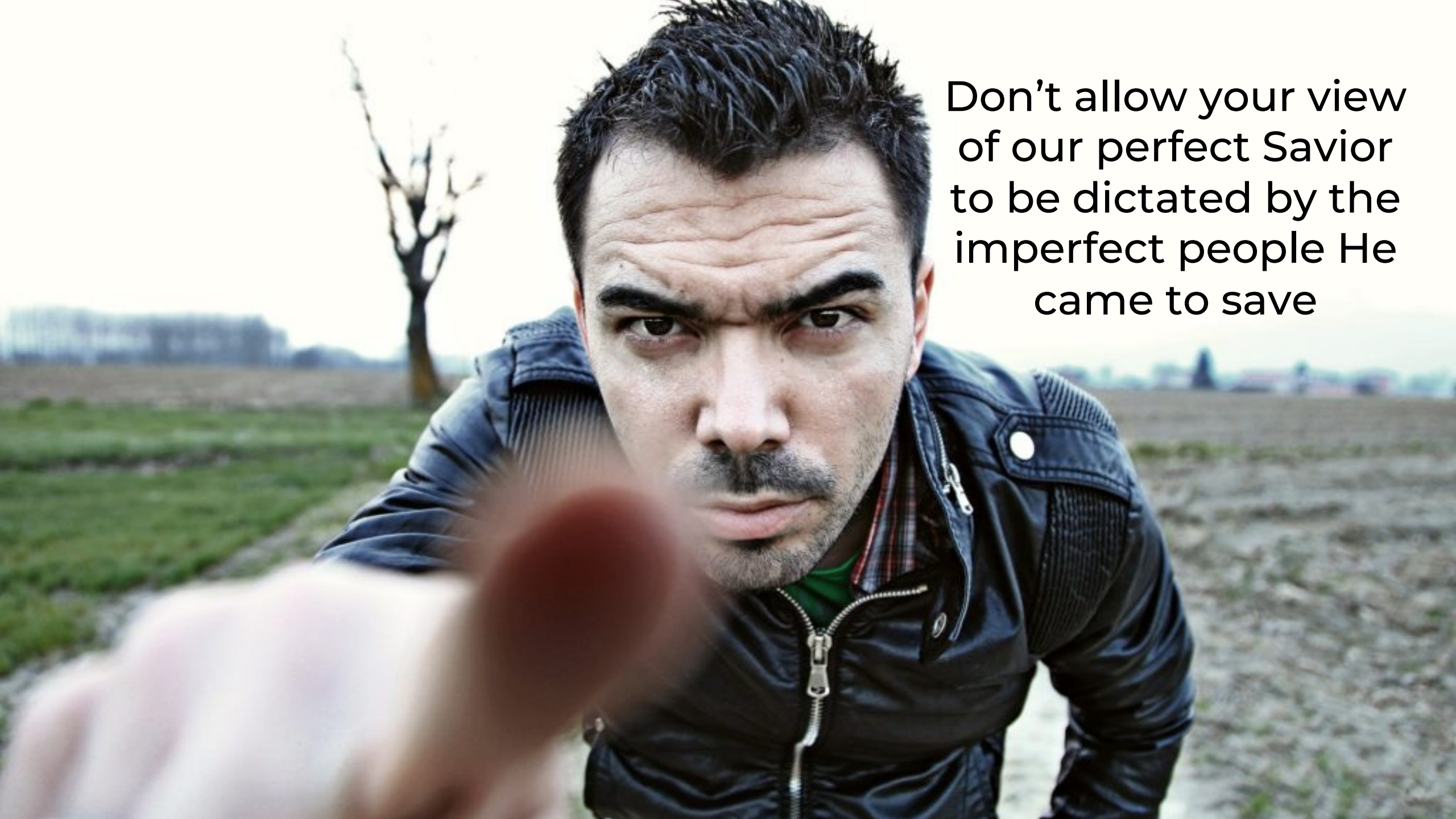
“...that they may be seen by others”

“...that their fasting may be seen by others”





“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”

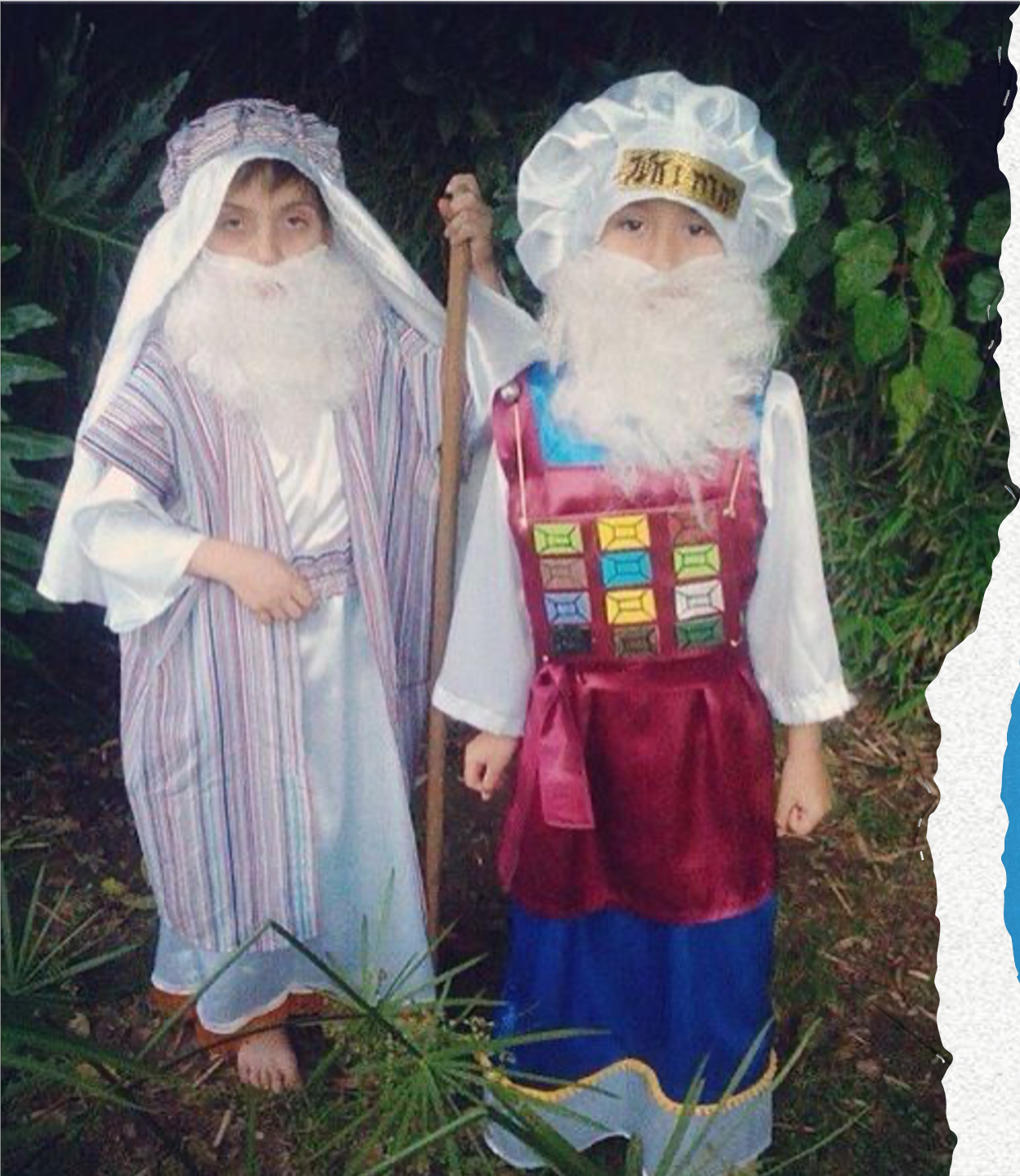
A man with dark hair and a goatee, wearing a black leather jacket, is leaning forward and looking directly at the camera with a serious, intense expression. The background is a desolate, open landscape with a single bare tree and a distant building under a pale sky. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Don't allow your view
of our perfect Savior
to be dictated by the
imperfect people He
came to save

You might be a Pharisee if...

- You're glad you're better than other people
- You focus more on appearance than the heart
- You are quick to judge others, but ignore (or are blind to) your own faults
- You recount your virtues more often than you address your sin
- You equate your personal convictions (traditions) with the Word of God
- You emphasize rules over relationship
- Criticism comes more quickly than compassion
- You're insulted by the notion that you might be a Pharisee

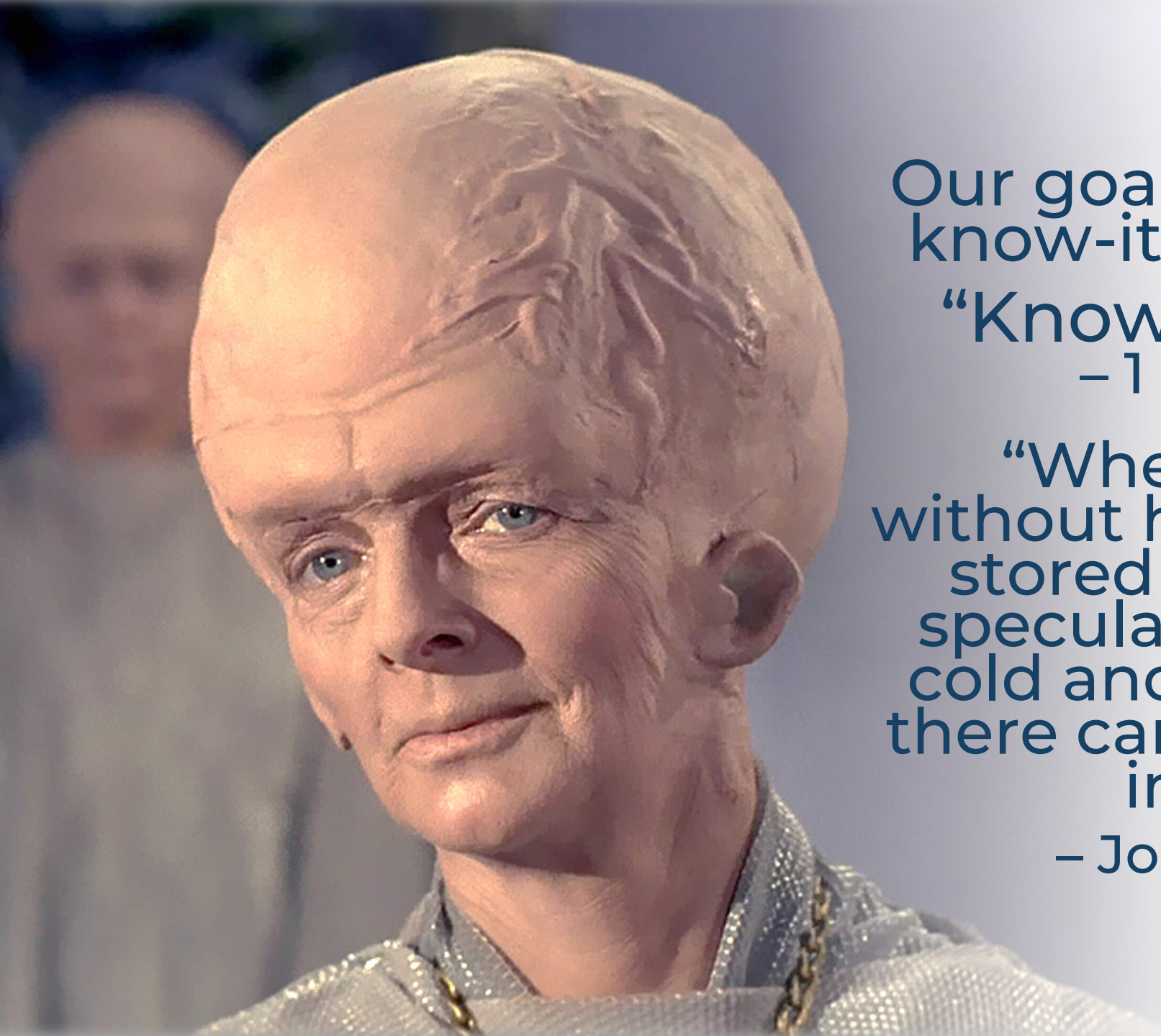




How do we
(unintentionally)
create mini
Pharisees?

John 14:15

“If you love me,
you will keep my
commandments”



Our goal is not just to raise
know-it-alls who act right

“Knowledge puffs up”
– 1 Corinthians 8:1

“Where there is light
without heat, such as a head
stored with notions and
speculations but having a
cold and unaffected heart,
there can be nothing divine
in that light.”

– Jonathan Edwards



A. Our own example and attitude

- Your children will become what they see you believe, not just what you say you believe
- Do you act like you're perfect?
- They're watching how you react (homeless person, friend with gay parents, teammate cussing, waiter talks about his live-in girlfriend)
- How do you respond when others blow it or make bad choices?



B. The idol of our kid's performance

- Does their performance (good or bad) define you?
- A well-behaved kid isn't the same as a disciplined kid
- Do they feel you can relate to their struggles or mainly that you're disappointed?
- Are you characterized by grace and understanding?



C. What is *actually* important to us

- What we pay for, plan for, and praise
- Evangelical Humanism: try harder, do more, be better
- Do we want behavior modification or heart transformation?



“Our flesh loves religious legalism because rules and regulations enable a person to appear holy without really having to change his heart.”
– Warren Wiersbe



- Grace minus truth = **License** (younger bro/prodigal son)
- Truth minus grace = **Legalism** (older bro/Pharisee)

“Our love grows soft if it is not strengthened by truth, and our truth grows hard if it is not softened by love.”

– John Stott

Diagnosing Log-eyes



Uncmn

Diagnosing Log-eyes

1. How you see YOURSELF (Luke 5)

Jesus came for 'sinners'

And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and **sinners**?" And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but **sinners** to repentance." (Luke 5:29-32)

Diagnosing Log-eyes

1. How you see YOURSELF (Luke 5)

- Are you a “sinner” at the party or the set apart Pharisee outside looking down on those at the party?
- Are you desperately in need of God’s mercy and grace?

Jesus came for “sinners”

And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and **sinners**?” And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but **sinners** to repentance.” (Luke 5:29-32)

“For while we were still **weak**, at the right time Christ died for the **ungodly**... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still **sinners**, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were **enemies** we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.” (Rm 5:6-10)



Diagnosing Log-eyes

1. How you see YOURSELF (Luke 5)

- PRESCRIPTION: **HUMILITY & TESTIMONY**



“If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

– Philippians 3:4-8



“For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.”

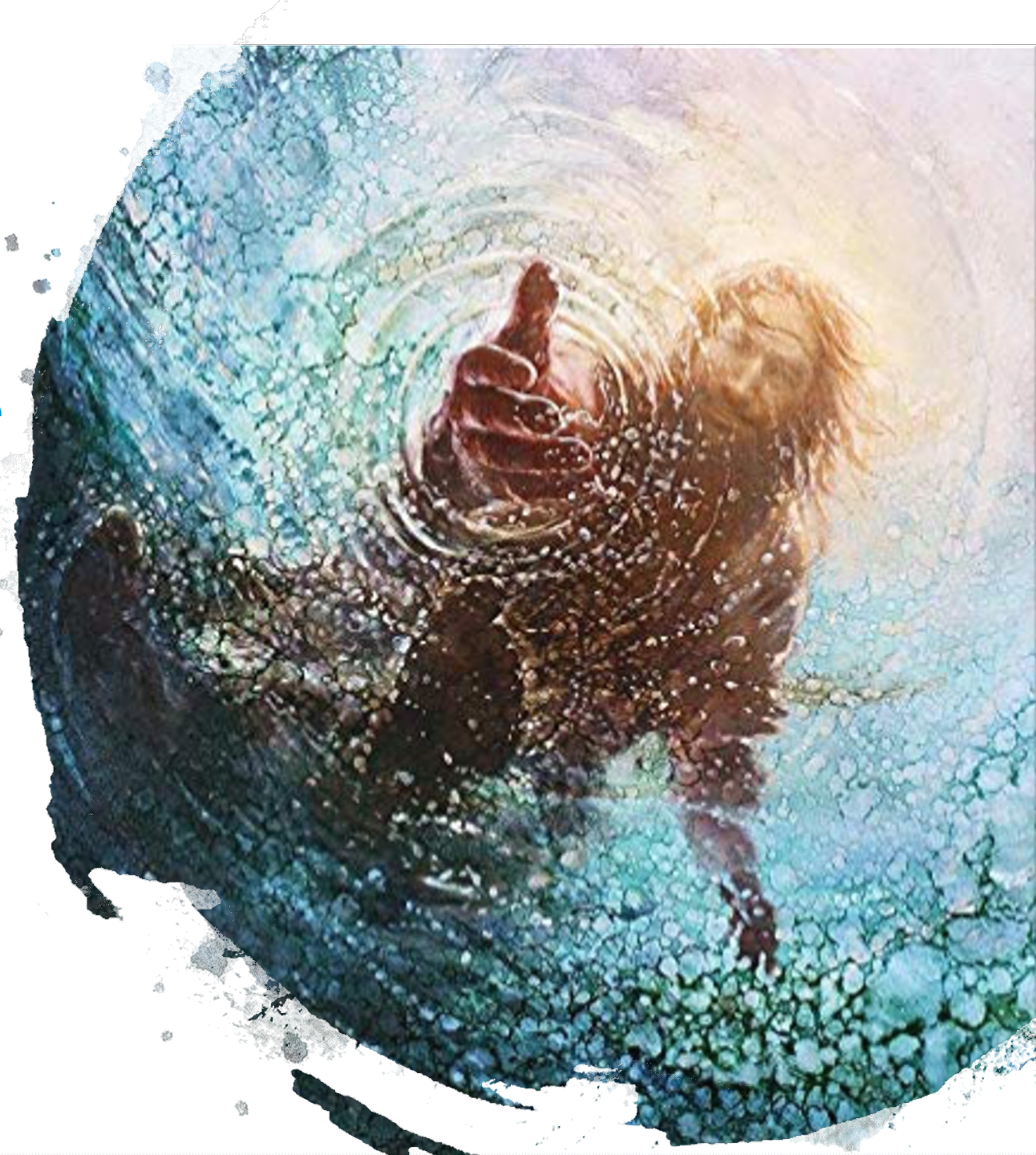
– Philippians 3:8-9



- “If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my **weakness**” (2 Cor 11:30)
- “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my **weaknesses**, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” (2 Cor 12:9)
- “But far be it from me to boast **except in the cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Gal 6:14)
- “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, **of whom I am the foremost**” (1 Tim 1:15)

“Whenever you think about your own conversion, dear friend, regard it as a miracle, and always say within yourself, ‘It was a wonder of grace! If the conversion of anybody was ever a miracle of mercy, it was my conversion; it was an extraordinary condescension on Christ's part to look on such a sinner as I was, and nothing but a miracle of grace could have saved me.’”

– Charles Spurgeon



Diagnosing Log-eyes

2. How you see GOD (Luke 15)



“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them.’ **So** he told them this parable...”

- Luke 15:1-3



But when he was yet a great way off, his Father saw him, and had compassion

FOR HIS
WE FELT
DO NOT
WITTY

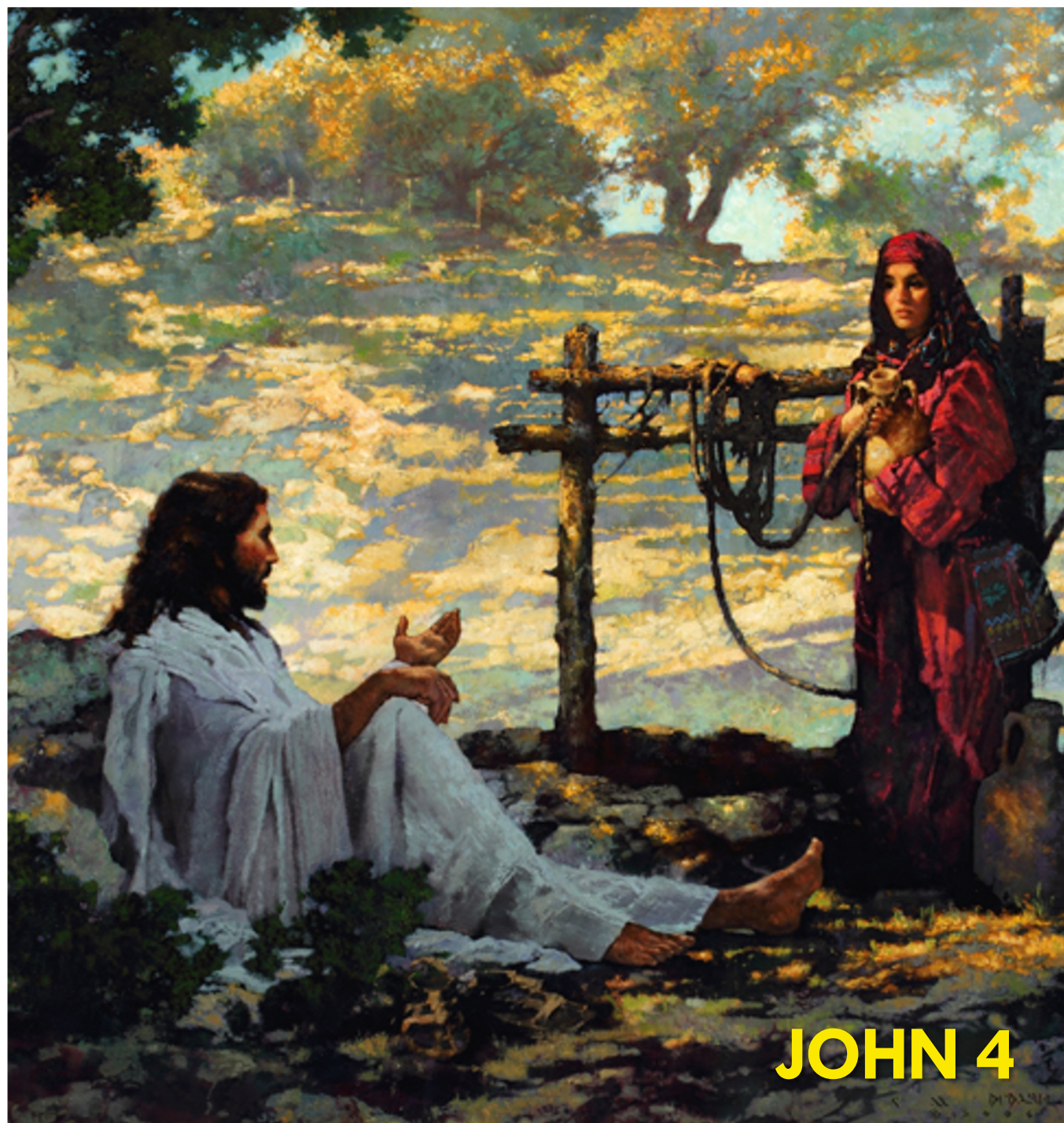
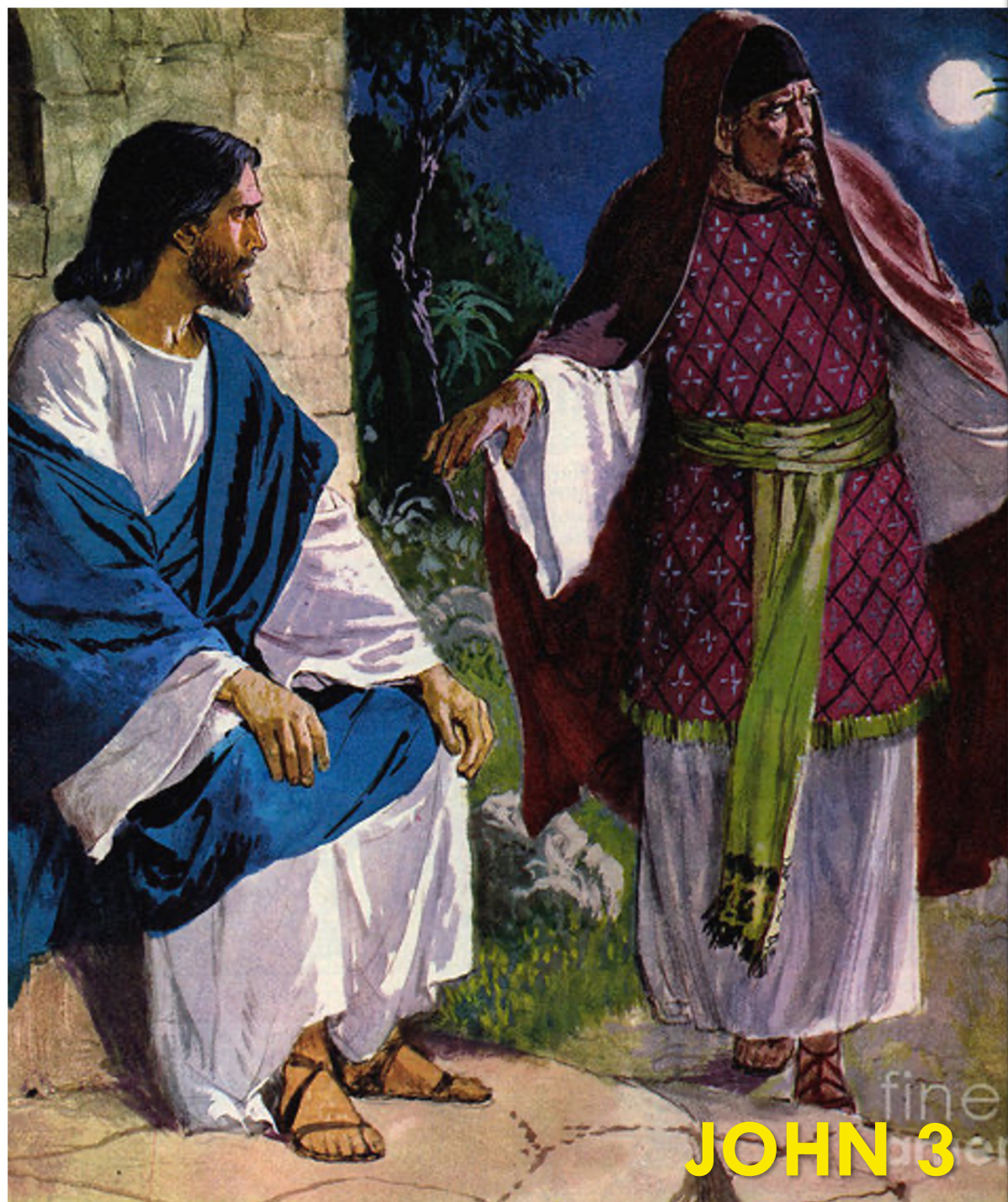
Diagnosing Log-eyes

2. How you see GOD (Luke 15)

- Does God “owe” you for your obedience?
- Are you bothered when He lavishly pours out mercy and grace?

“I’m not even worthy
to be called your son.”

“These many years I
have served you, and I
never disobeyed your
command.”



Jeremiah

9:23-24

Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”



You can know the Word of God and still not know the God of the Word

“You can be straight as a gun barrel theologically and empty as one spiritually.”

– A.W. Tozer



Is your heart broken for what breaks God's heart? Are His priorities your priorities?

Could He say, "Well done, good and faithful servant... you loved the people I love"?



Do my plans,
priorities,
prayers, and
pocketbook
reflect God's
heart?

Diagnosing Log-eyes

2. How you see GOD (Luke 15)

- PRESCRIPTION: **WONDER & WORSHIP**

Diagnosing Log-eyes

3. How you see OTHERS (Luke 18)



“He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt...”
– Luke 18:9

Diagnosing Log-eyes

3. How you see OTHERS (Luke 18)

- Do you see them as “less than” if they don’t measure up?
- Maybe you have the morals of God, but do you have the heart of God?

Horizontal Focus:
my performance
compared to that
of others
(moralism)

*“I’m sorry I broke
God’s Law.”*



Vertical Focus:
God’s holiness
is the standard

*“I’m sorry I
broke God’s
heart.”*



“When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.”

– Jonah 3:10

“And Jonah returned to his own land rejoicing.”

– Jonah 3:11



“When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.”

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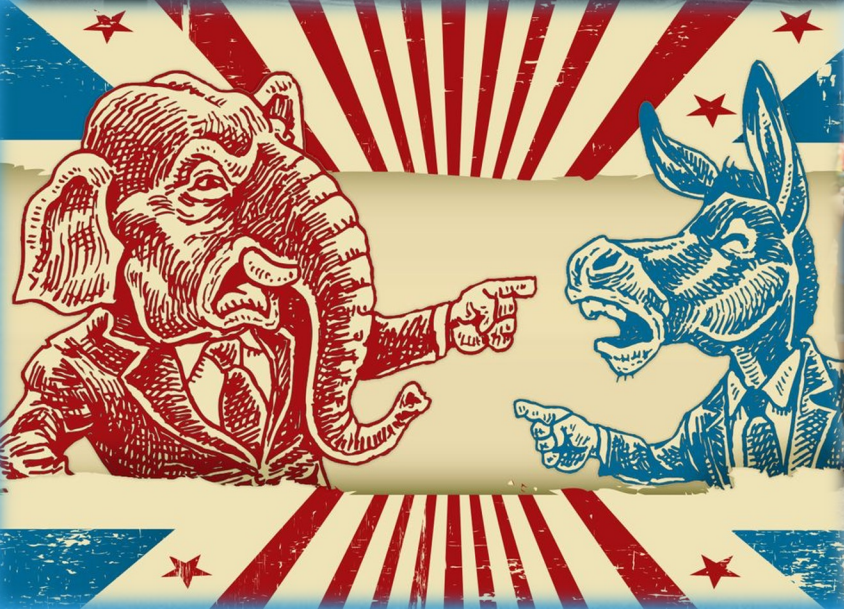
~~– Jonah 3:11~~



“And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left?”



Who are your 'no way!' people?







“If Christians see ourselves as people who are ‘losing’ a culture rather than people who have been sent on a mission to a culture, we will be outraged and hopeless instead of compassionate and convictional. If we do not love our mission field, we will have nothing to say to it.”
– Russell Moore

2 Corinthians 4:4-6

"...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God ... For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."



Lost people are
acting like lost
people because
they're lost
people



Kindness
isn't
condoning

Diagnosing Log-eyes

3. How you see OTHERS (Luke 18)

- PRESCRIPTION: **OPEN-HEARTED & OPEN-HANDED**

“Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God”

– Romans 15:7

Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality
in Our Post-Christian World

The
Gospel
Comes
with a
House
Key

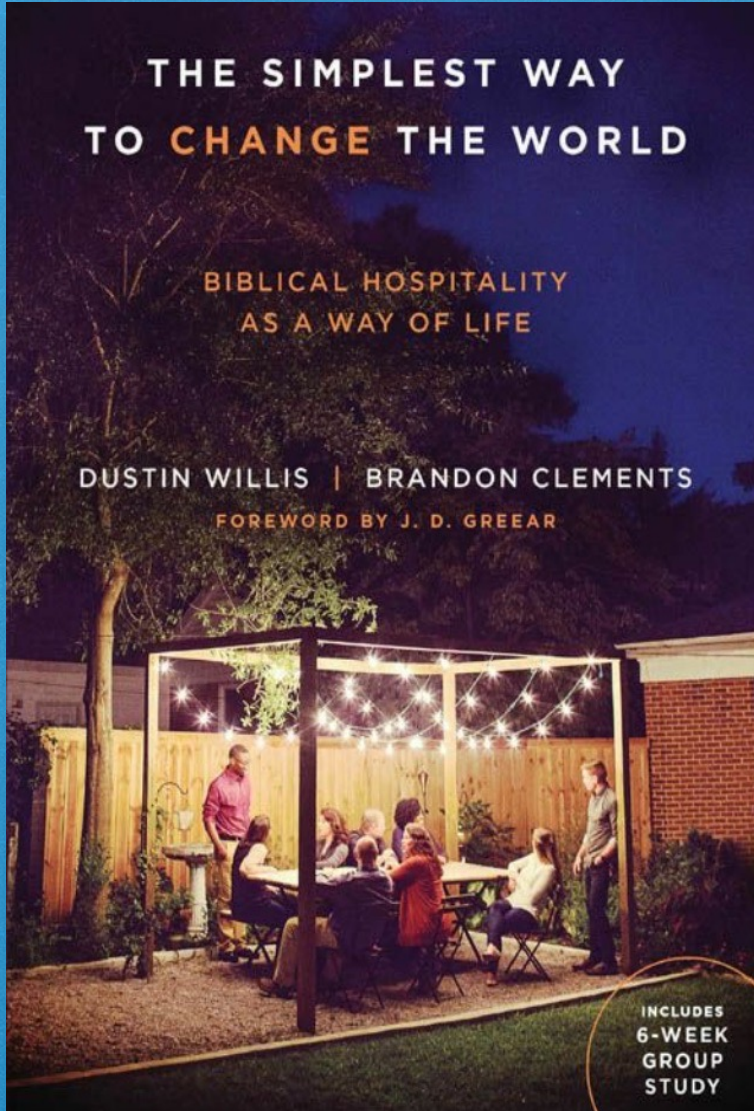


Rosaria Butterfield

THE SIMPLEST WAY
TO **CHANGE** THE WORLD

BIBLICAL HOSPITALITY
AS A WAY OF LIFE

DUSTIN WILLIS | BRANDON CLEMENTS
FOREWORD BY J. D. GREAR



INCLUDES
6-WEEK
GROUP
STUDY

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A
Meal
WITH
Jesus

Discovering Grace,
Community & Mission
around the Table

TIM
CHESTER

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Uncmn

What was the assignment again?



“Go and make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19)

“You will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8)

“How are they to hear without someone preaching?” (Rm 10:14)

“We are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us” (2 Cor 5:20)

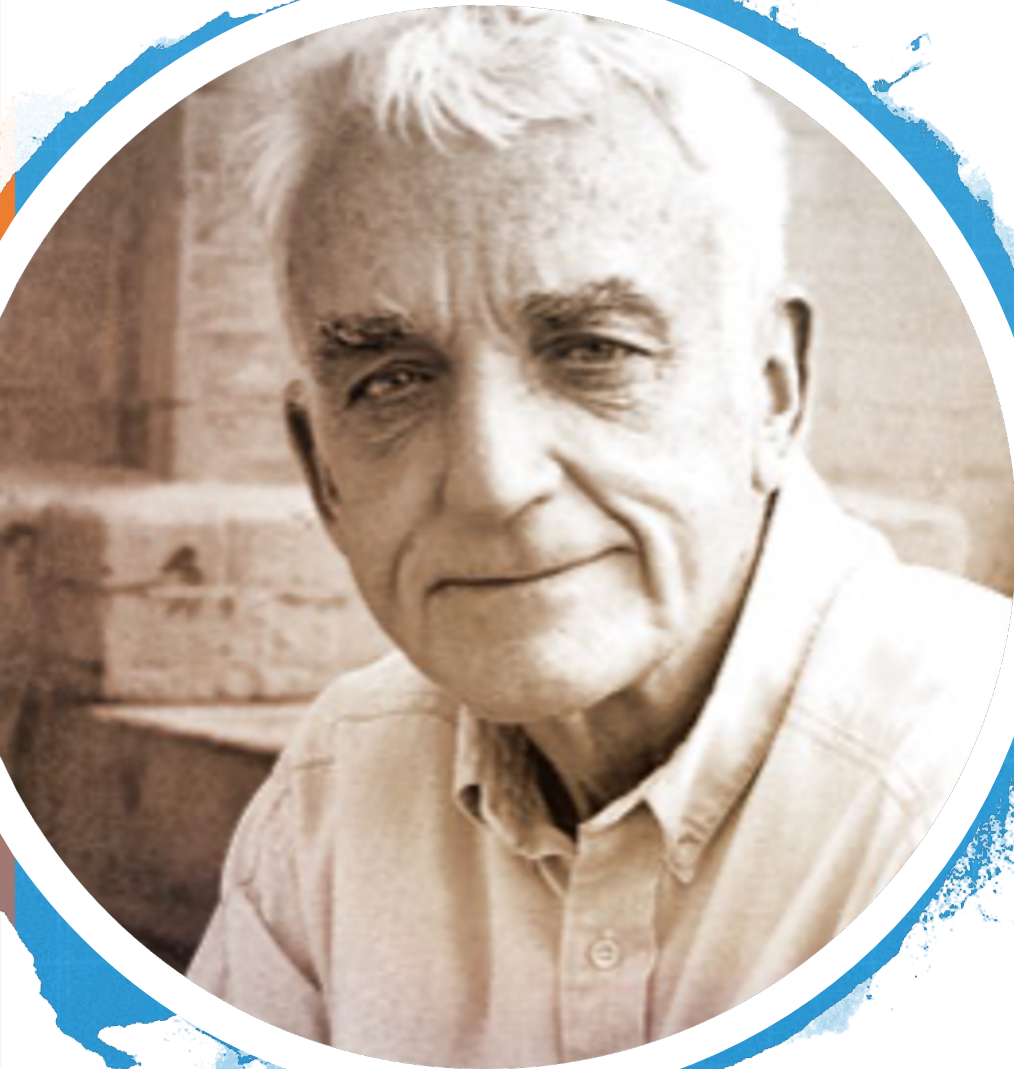
“Make the best use of the time...” (Eph 5:16)

“Let your conversation be always full of grace...” (Col 4:6)



Who were
drawn to Jesus?
Who did he
pursue?



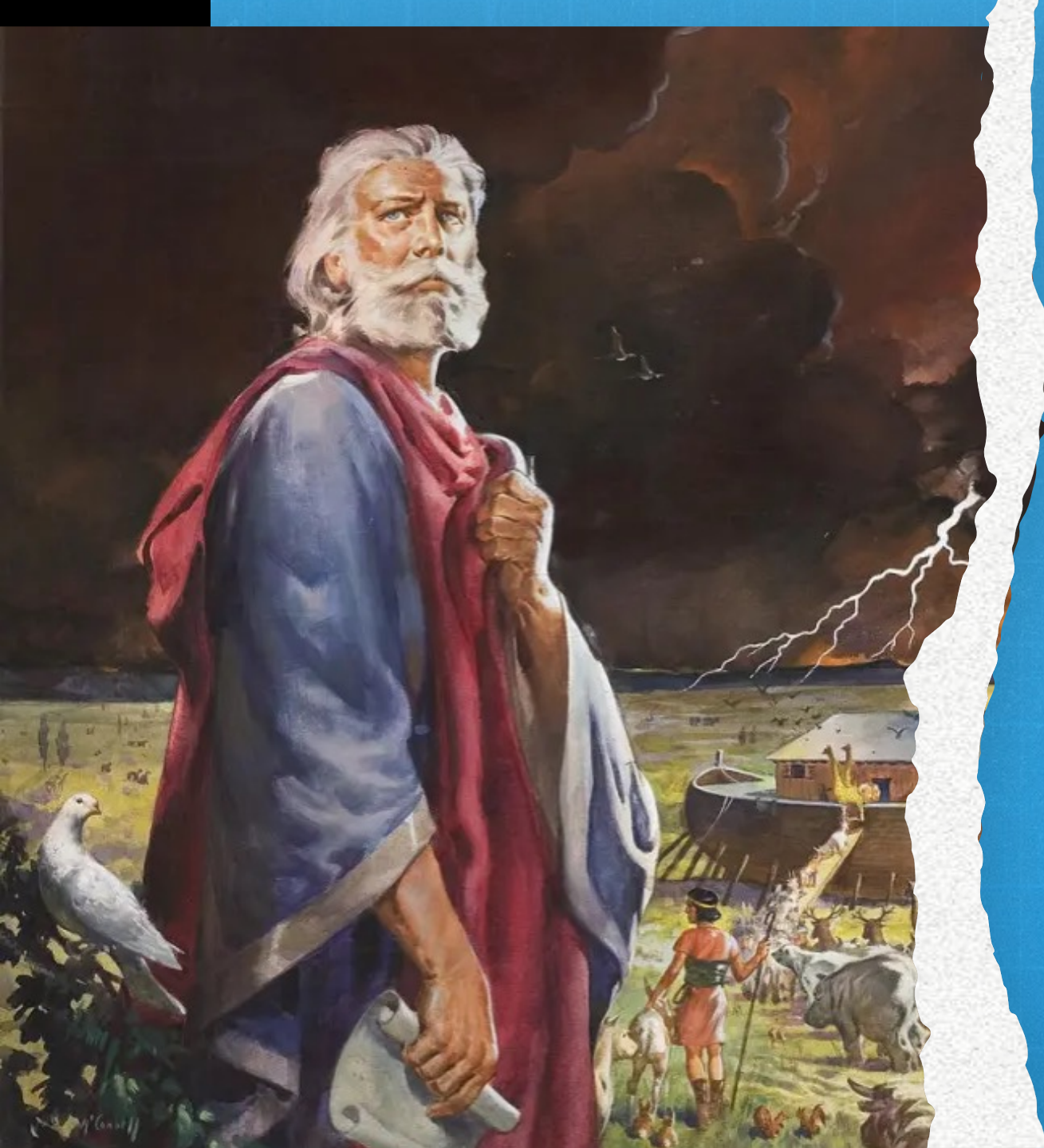


“Jesus spent a disproportionate amount of time with people described in the Gospels as the poor, the blind, the lame, the lepers, the hungry, sinners, prostitutes, tax collectors, the persecuted, the downtrodden, the captives, those possessed by unclean spirits, all who labor and are heavy burdened, the rabble who know nothing of the law, the crowds, the little ones, the least, the last, and the lost sheep of the house of Israel. In short, Jesus associated with ragamuffins.”

– Brennan Manning, Ragamuffin Gospel



Imperfectly Averting Legalism



Why did
God spare
Noah?

WHAT do we deserve?

“I, who am altogether undeserving, am treated as if I had been deserving. I am loved with as much love as if I had always been godly. Who can help being astonished at this?”

– Charles Spurgeon

We are more sinful and
flawed in ourselves than
we ever dared imagine

Yet we are more loved and
accepted in Christ than we
ever dared hope



Don't mistake your performance for your position in Christ

- Your kids are not your report card
- Your job is not your identity
- Your looks are not the real you
- Your church involvement doesn't change your status as God's child
- Tell your kids these same things

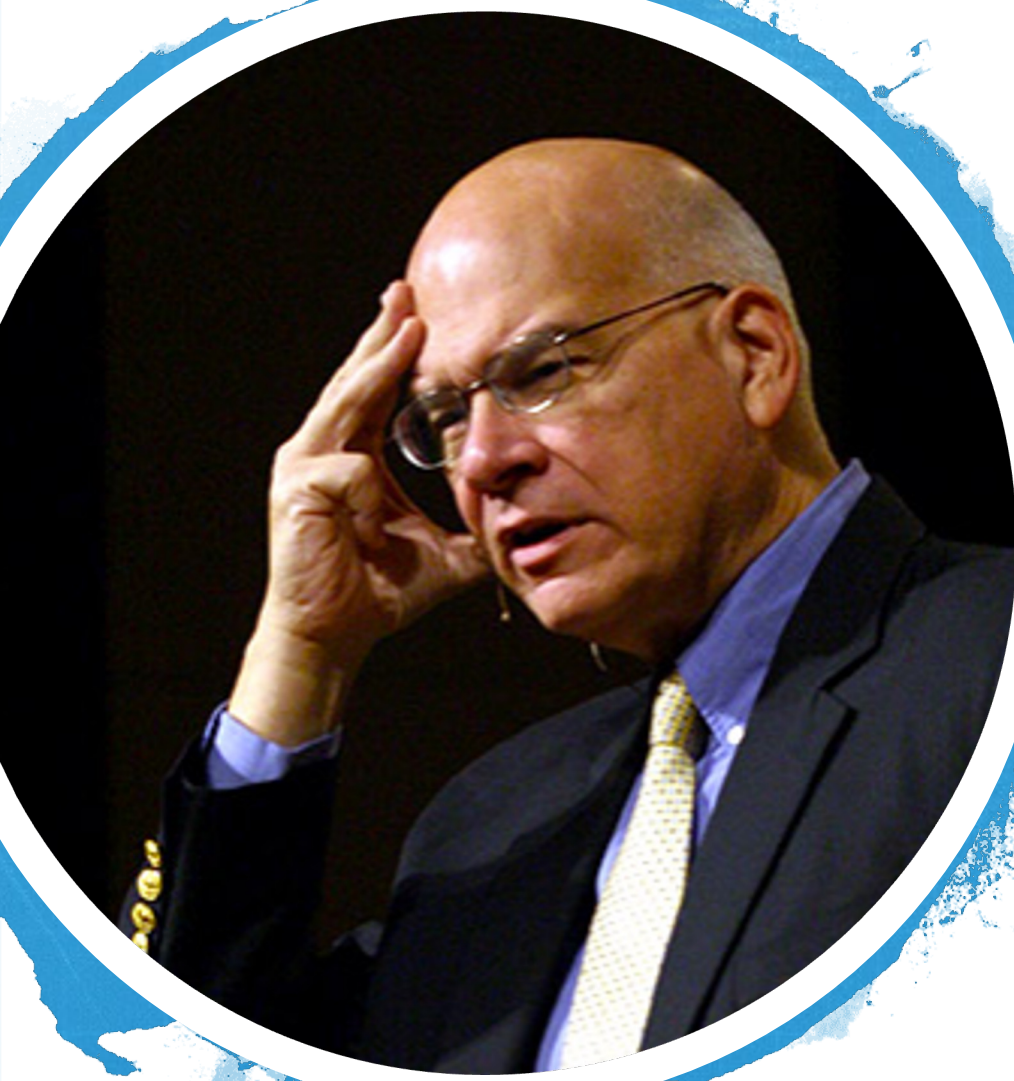
Titus 3:1-6

• “Remind them ... to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.”

Titus 3:1-6

“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior”



“The mistaken belief that a person must ‘clean up’ his or her own life in order to merit God’s presence is not Christianity. This means, though, that the church will be filled with immature and broken people who still have a long way to go emotionally, morally, and spiritually.”

– Tim Keller

WHY do we obey?

“A lot of people think that Christianity is you doing all the righteous things you hate and avoiding all the wicked things you love in order to go to Heaven. No, that’s a lost man with religion. A Christian is a person whose heart has been changed; they have new affections.” – Paul Washer

WHY do we obey?

- The Bible isn't about 1,000 principles to live by, but about one Person to live for
- There will always be tension between outward behavior and an obedient heart secure in God's love
- Are we following rules to be recognized or following Jesus to be satisfied?
- Grace is not only pardon from sin, but power to not sin
- "Sin is not fundamentally defeated through the power of self-denial, but through the power of a greater desire." – Jon Bloom

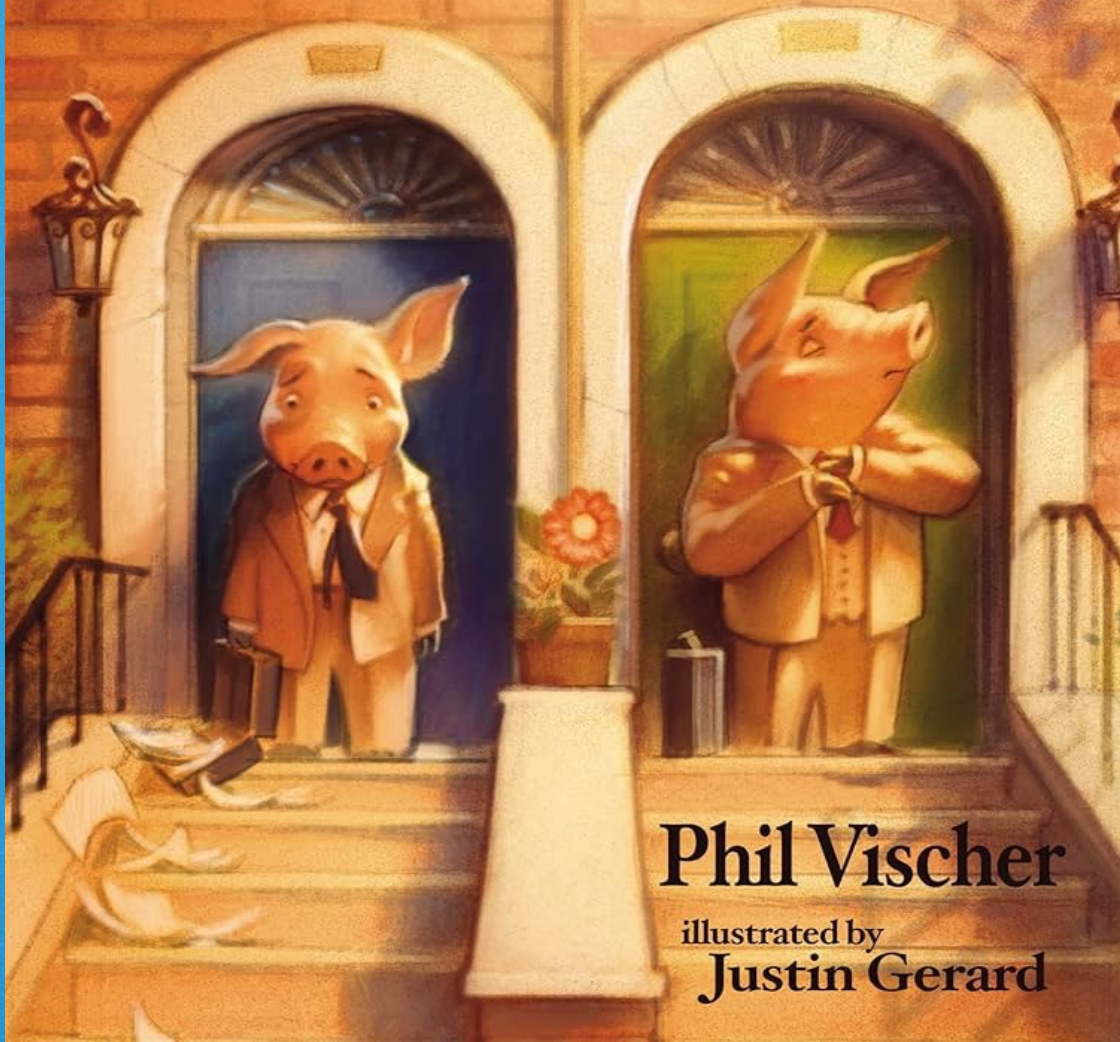
WHY do we obey?

What are the right motives for obedience?

- “Because God says so”
- Human flourishing (His way IS better)
- Trusting, faith-filled obedience out of love
- To show the world the worth of your Savior

Sidney & Norman

a tale of two pigs



Phil Vischer
illustrated by
Justin Gerard

JUSTIN WHITMEL EARLEY



HABITS OF THE HOUSEHOLD

PRACTICING THE STORY OF GOD
IN EVERYDAY FAMILY RHYTHMS

HOW do we repent?

HOW do we repent?

- Repentance isn't just feeling bad or trying harder on your own strength
- Performance-based repentance makes us hate ourselves; Gospel-based repentance makes us hate our sin
- “If confession of sin ends with sorrow, it hasn't gone far enough. Confessing sin is an opportunity to rejoice in the Gospel.” – Catherine Parks

Reflection & Application

- In what areas have you noticed self-righteousness in your heart?
- Think of all the ways you've been forgiven. Ask the Lord to help you love much because you've been forgiven much.
- Tell the story of the Pharisee and the sinful women to your kids (Luke 7:36-50). Talk about ways we ALL can act like the Pharisee sometimes when we think we are better than other people.
- Pray with your family that God would help you know yourself rightly and love Jesus completely.
- Pick some of Paul's prayers for believers and pray them for your kids.
- Pray that God would protect you from self-righteous thoughts.

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