



THE TWO FACES OF UNBELIEF: PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Matthew 13:53-14:12

John 1:43-51



Great fruitfulness

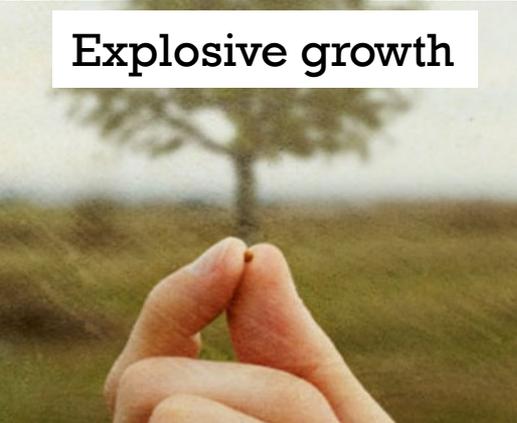
Parable of the Sower



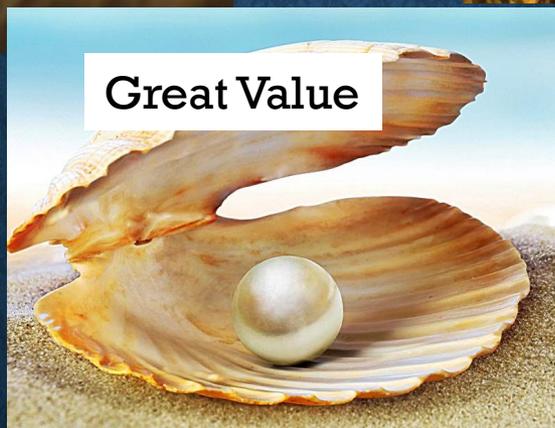
Pirated version

PARABLE OF THE WEEDS AMONG WHEAT

MATTHEW 13:24



Explosive growth



Great Value

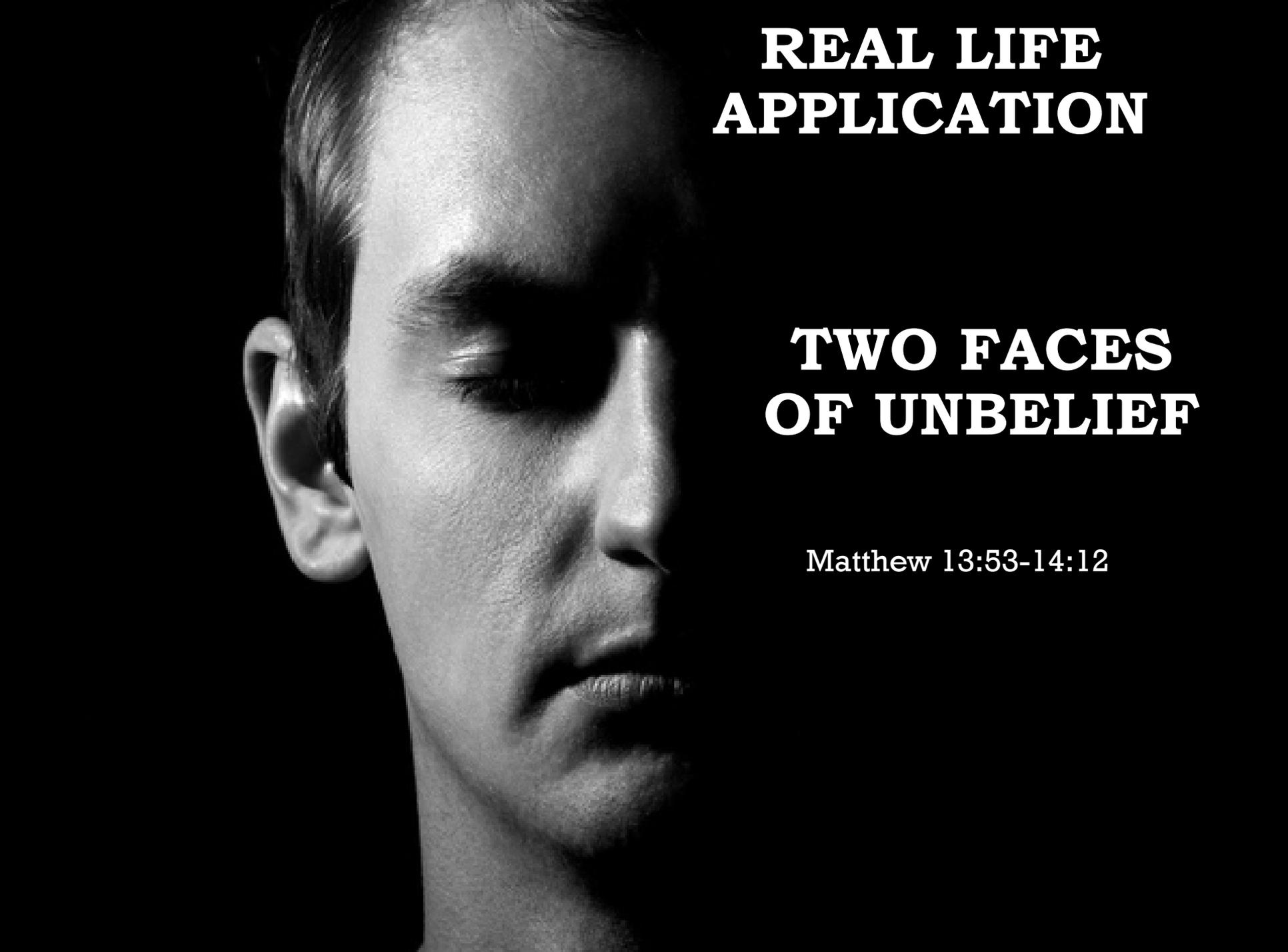


Seen at end of time



Great Joy

Whole life



**REAL LIFE
APPLICATION**

**TWO FACES
OF UNBELIEF**

Matthew 13:53-14:12

What if *your* views on sex and relationships
as a 21-year-old influenced millions?



"I needed to see this film"
Christian Post



*A New Zealand
Talent Showcase
and Recognition*

*Kissed Dating
Goodbye*

I SURVIVED

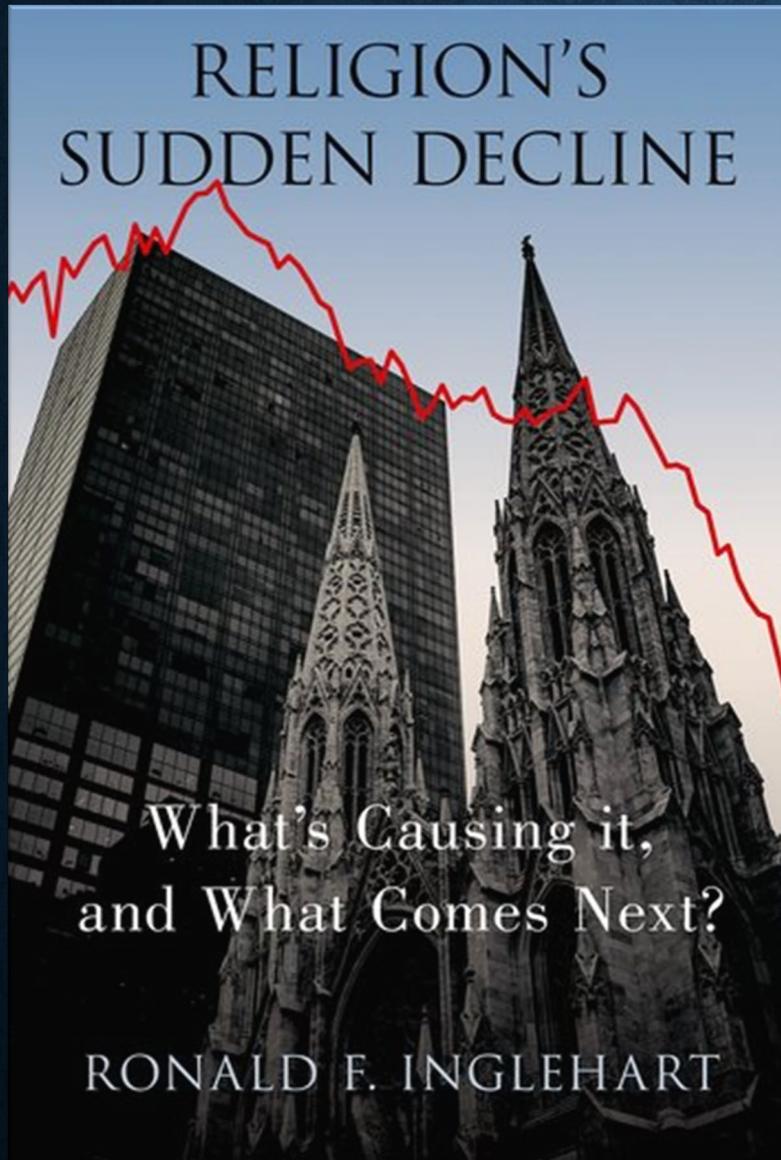
I KISSED DATING GOODBYE



THIS IS
Hillsong UNITED



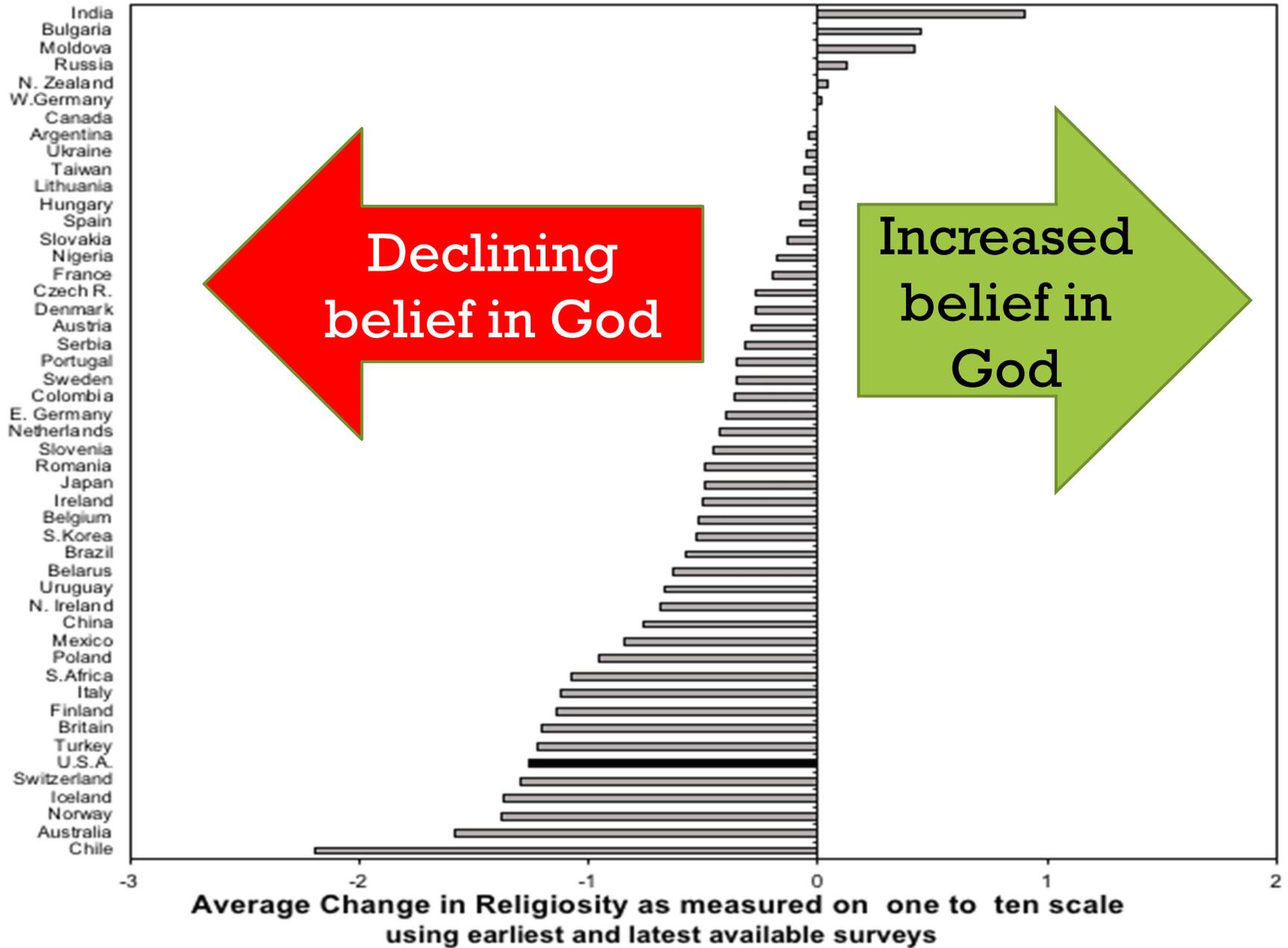
MARTY SAMPSON



- 
- Surveys of over 100 countries containing 90 percent of the world's population,
 - 1981 to 2020
 - Largest base of empirical evidence ever assembled to analyse mass acceptance or rejection of religion

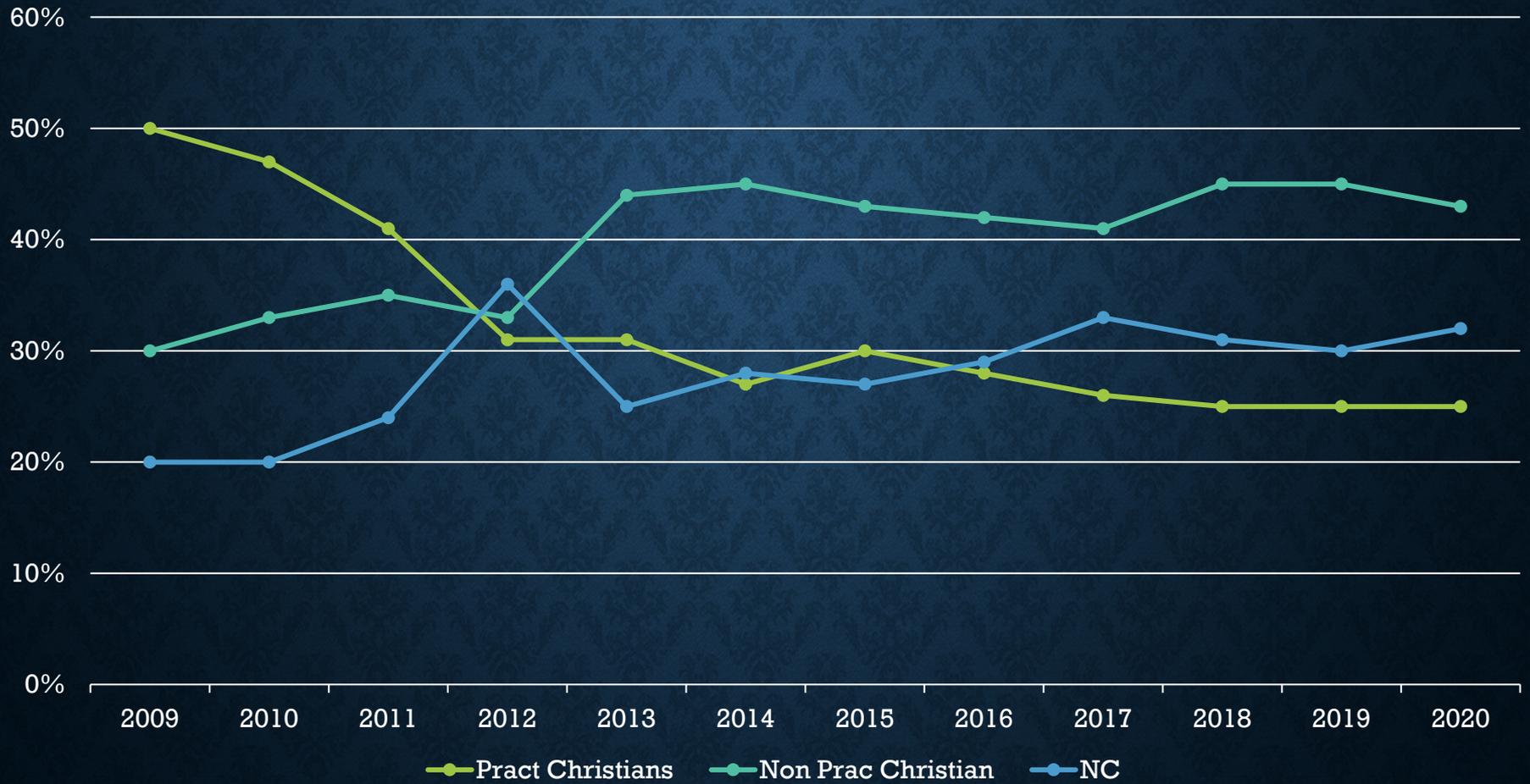
Corrected version of **The Decline of Religion, 2007-2019**

(Change in mean score on Importance of God scale in "Giving Up on God")



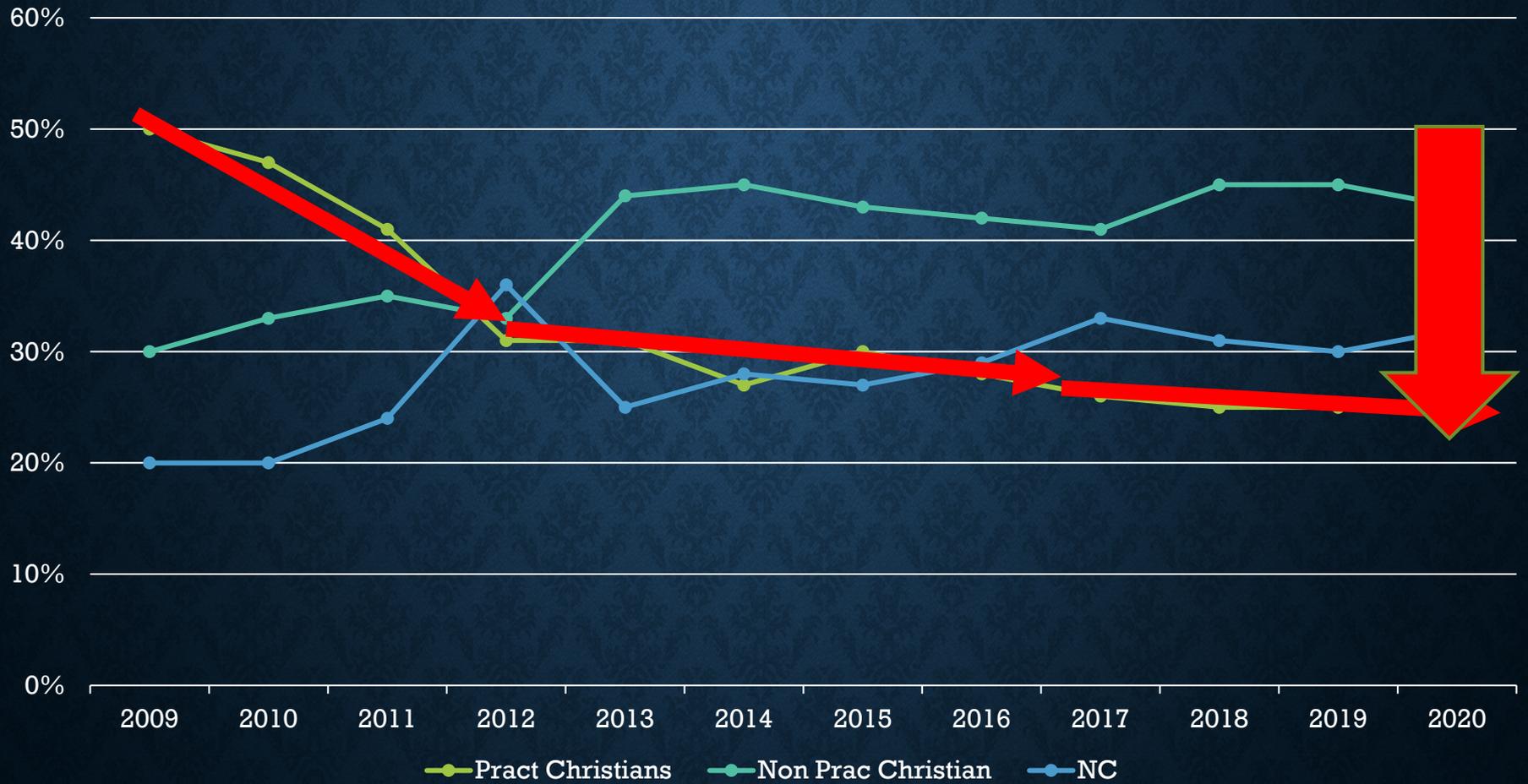
STATE OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH

96,171 adults Survey 2000-2020



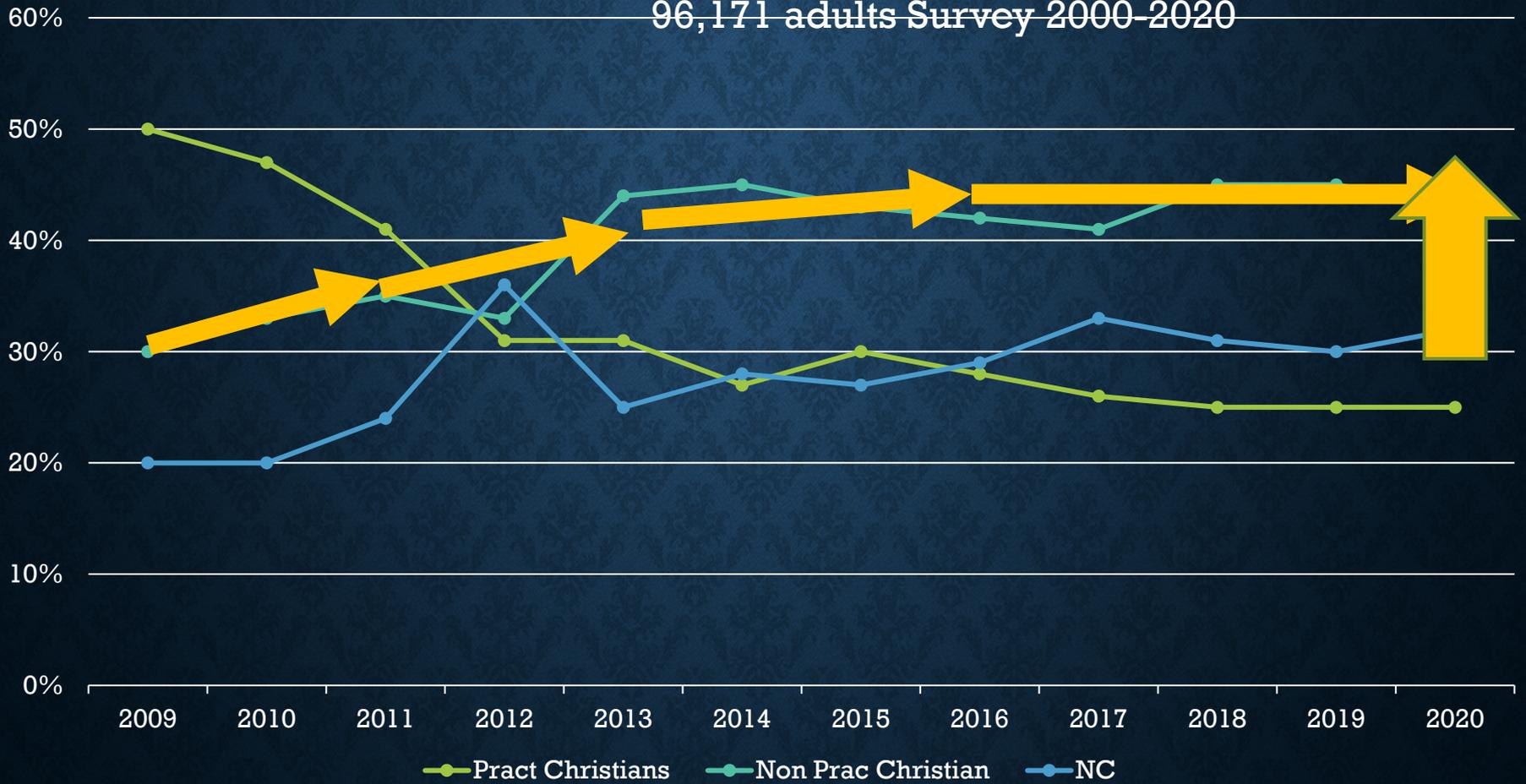
CHRISTIANS DECLINE 50%

96,171 adults Survey 2000-2020



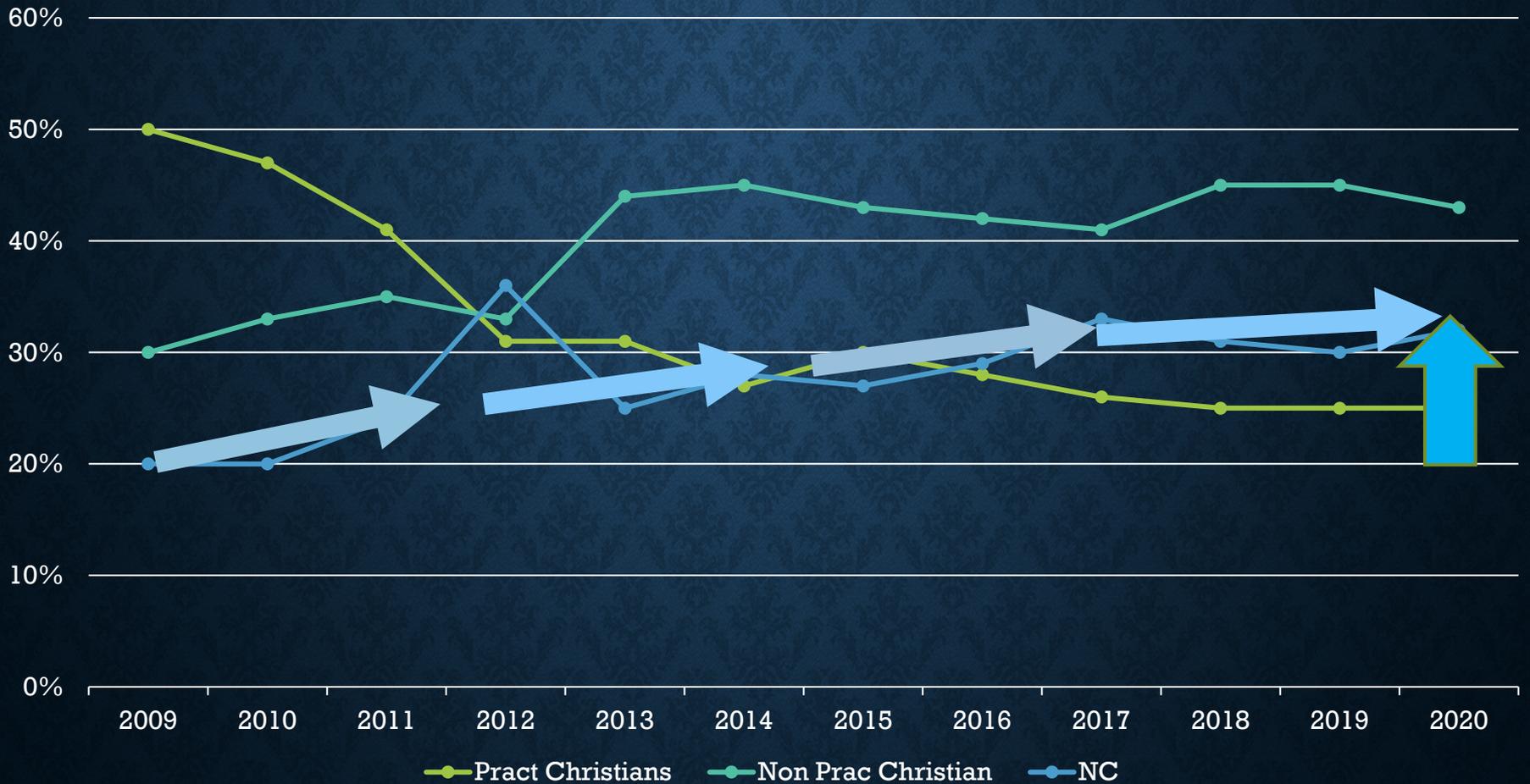
NON PRACTICING CHRISTIANS INCREASE BY 30%

96,171 adults Survey 2000-2020



NON CHRISTIANS INCREASE BY 60%

96,171 adults Survey 2000-2020





THE TWO FACES OF UNBELIEF

1) What causes unbelief

2) What are the consequences of unbelief

3) How do we overcome unbelief

Matthew 13: 53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, 54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were **astonished**, and said, “Where did this man get this **wisdom** and these **mighty works**



SYRIA

Mediterranean Sea

GALILEE

Chorazin

Capernaum

Bethsaida

Sea of Galilee

Cana

Tiberius



Nazareth

Nain

River Jordan

DECAPOLIS

Caesarea









**astonished,
wisdom
mighty works**



PREJUDICE:



Matthew 13: 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"



Disbelieve in the face of the evidence



SKEPTICISM
CYNICISM
OUTRAGE



**MATTHEW 13: 57 AND THEY
TOOK OFFENSE AT HIM**



Skandalizoo

to cause to be brought to a downfall,
cause to sin (BDAG)

JESUS CONCLUSION

Matthew 13: 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.”

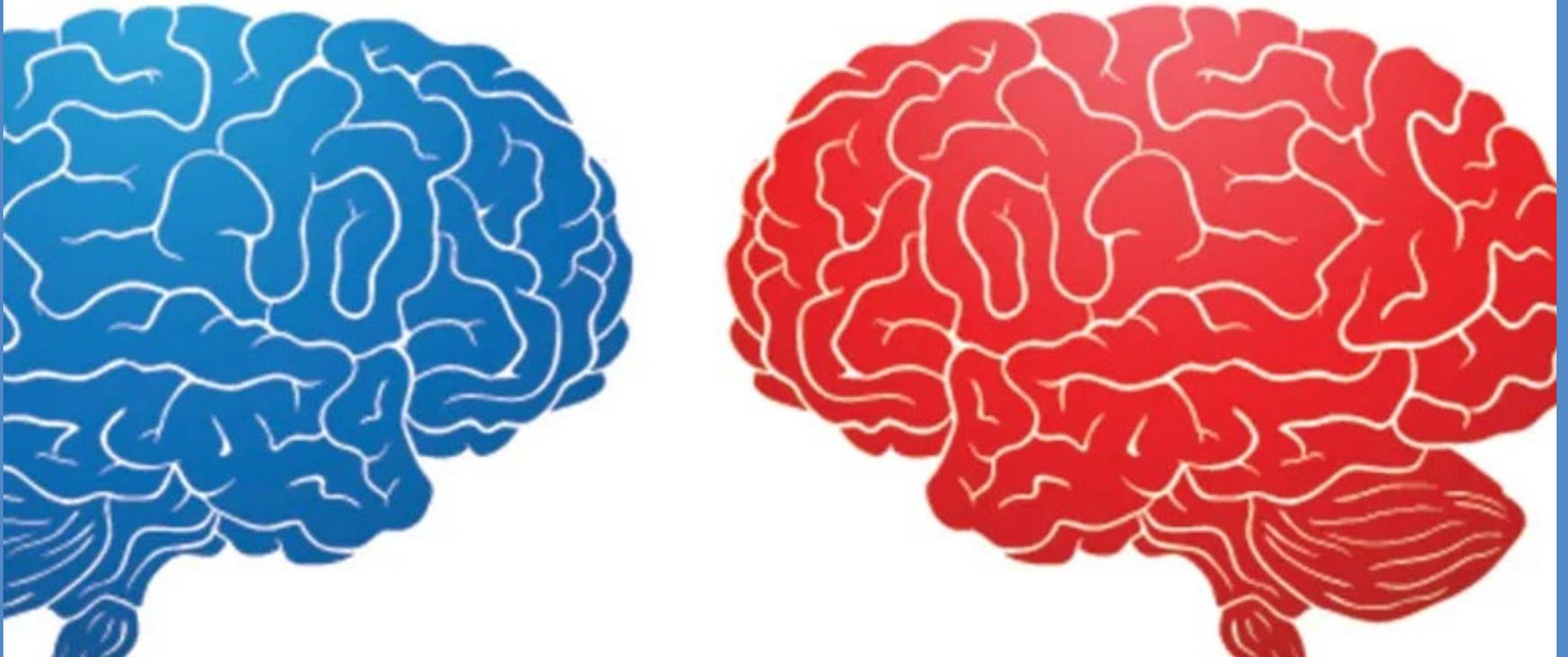


MOTIVATED REASONING

Emotions and basic physiological
traits influence rational thought

Peter Ditto and David F. Lopez, Univ California
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 1992

Solution aversion: On the relation between ideology and motivated disbelief. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 107(5), 809–824
Campbell, T. H., & Kay, A. C. (2014).



Republicans' skepticism toward climate change science is linked to beliefs about the policy solutions





“In any issue where people's cherished beliefs and identities are in play, you're probably going to see some amount of solution aversion”



HE IS JUST LIKE US

Matthew 13: 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"



**BACK
ATS**



TROY CAMPBELL

Consumer behavior
research at Duke
University business school

**"We alter our
view of reality
to be as
flattering as
possible"**

4pm Dec 17



—Associated Press Wirephoto
MRS. DOROTHY MARTIN
Tells of outer space messages.

DOCTOR WARNS OF DISASTERS IN WORLD TUESDAY

Worst to Come in 1955,
He Declares



DR. LAUGHEAD
Expects only few survivors.

2nd November 2021 12.30pm Dallas Texas

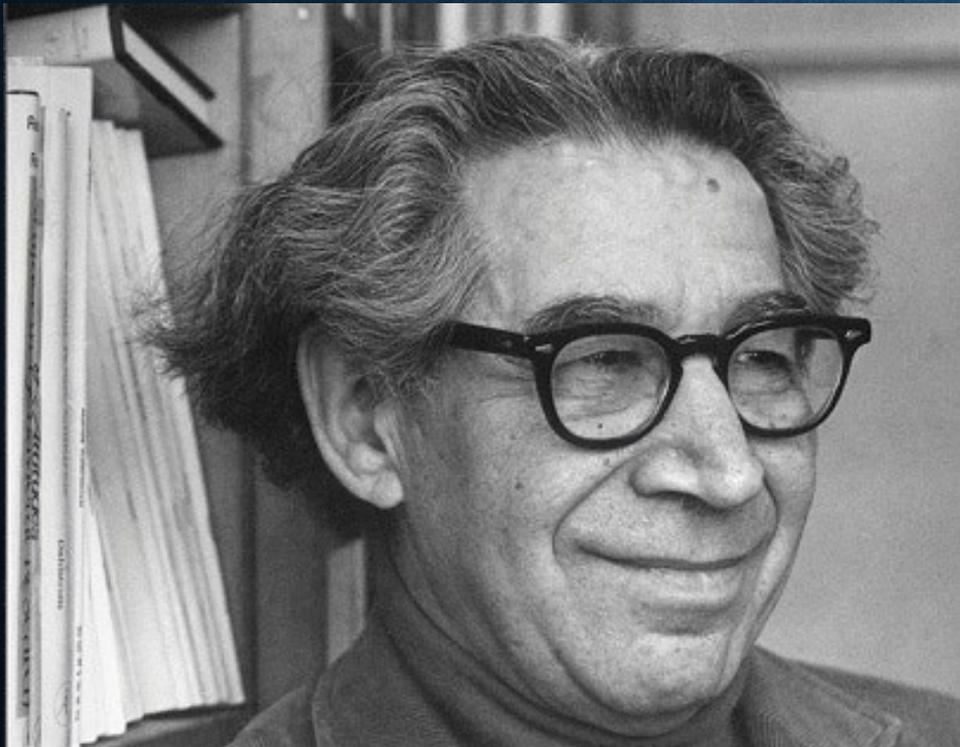




JFK RESURRECTION



LEON FESTINGER STANFORD PSYCHOLOGIST



“A man with a conviction is a hard man to change. Tell him you disagree and he turns away. Show him facts or figures and he questions your sources. Appeal to logic and he fails to see your point.”



% NOT DIED
FROM COVID
USA 99.98?
SWEDEN 99
UK 99.5

WHERE?
IS
THE
PANDEMIC





IVERMECTINE
BIOGARAN® 3 mg

4

COMPRIMÉS

VOIE ORALE

NOMBRE DE COMPRIME(S) PAR JOUR	EN 1 SEULE PRISE PAR JOUR	À JEUN  REPAS	 ADULTE ET ENFANT À PARTIR DE 15 KG
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Hydroxychloroquine
Sulfate Tablets, USP
200 mg

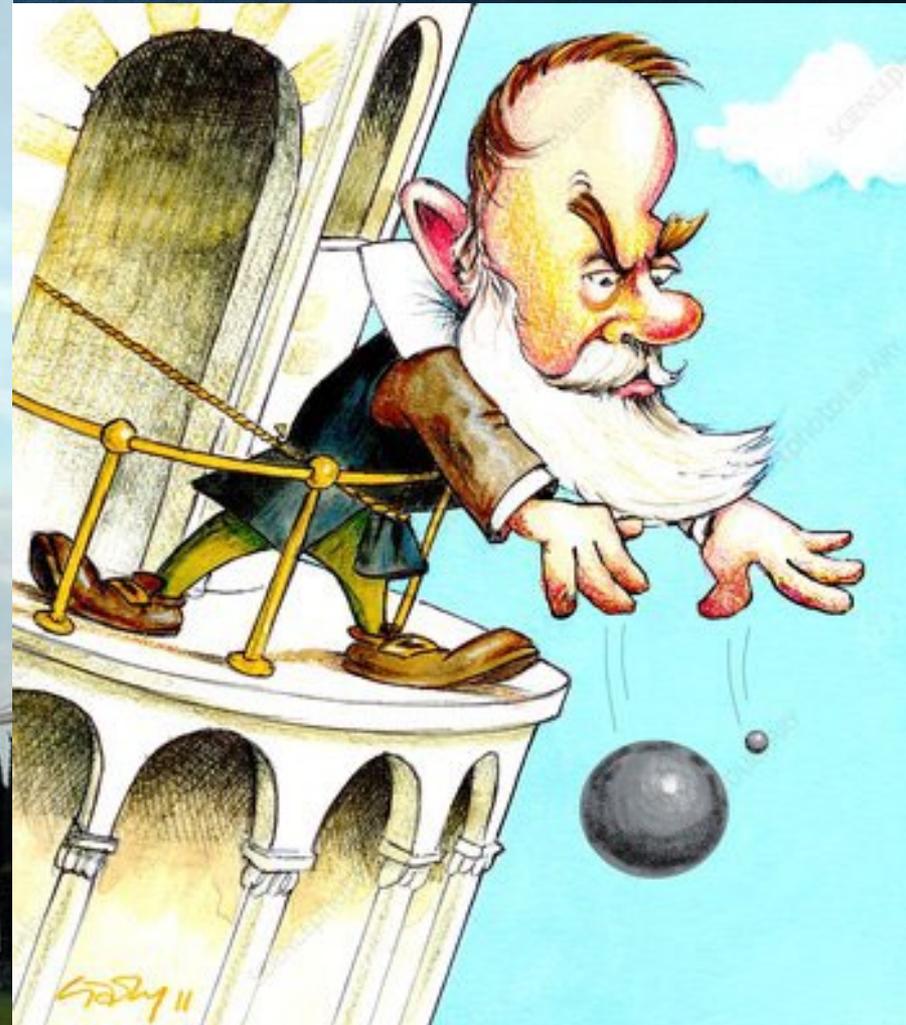
30 tablets

**SAME ANTI VAXXER'S
BELIEVE**

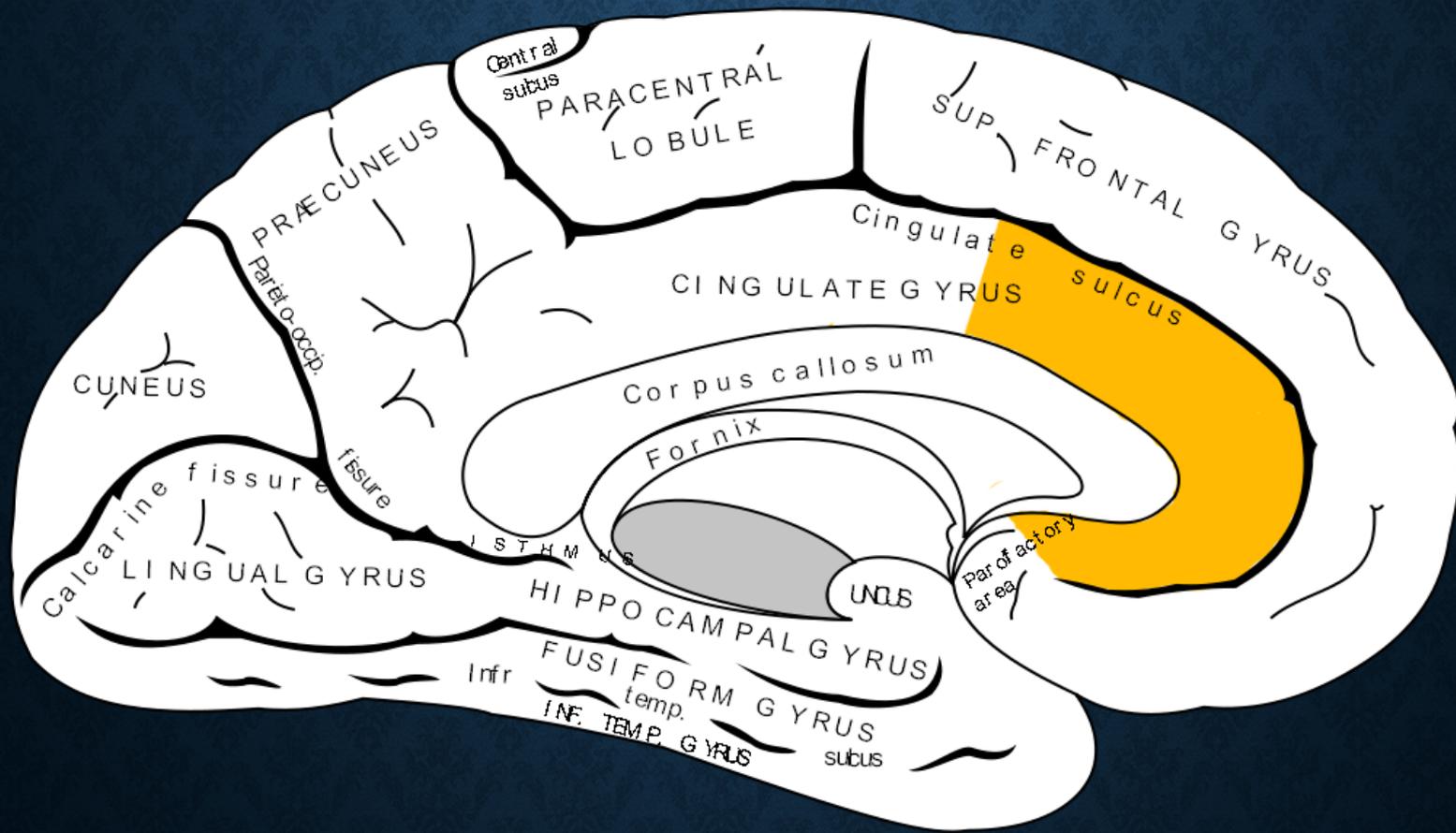


WHICH FALLS FASTER?

Kevin Dunbar 2003



ANTERIOR CINGULATE CORTEX DETECTION OF ERROR





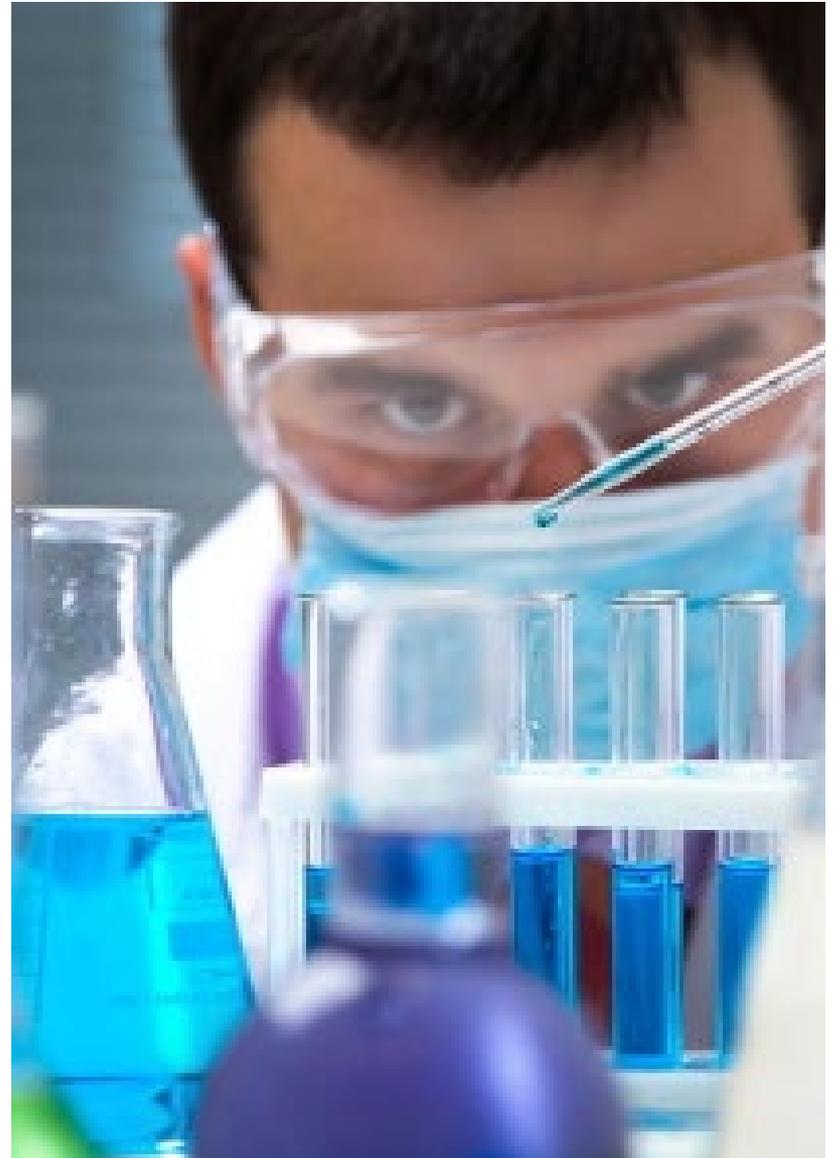
COHERENCE IN YOUR BELIEF SYSTEMS





Romans 1: 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Disbelieve in the face of the evidence

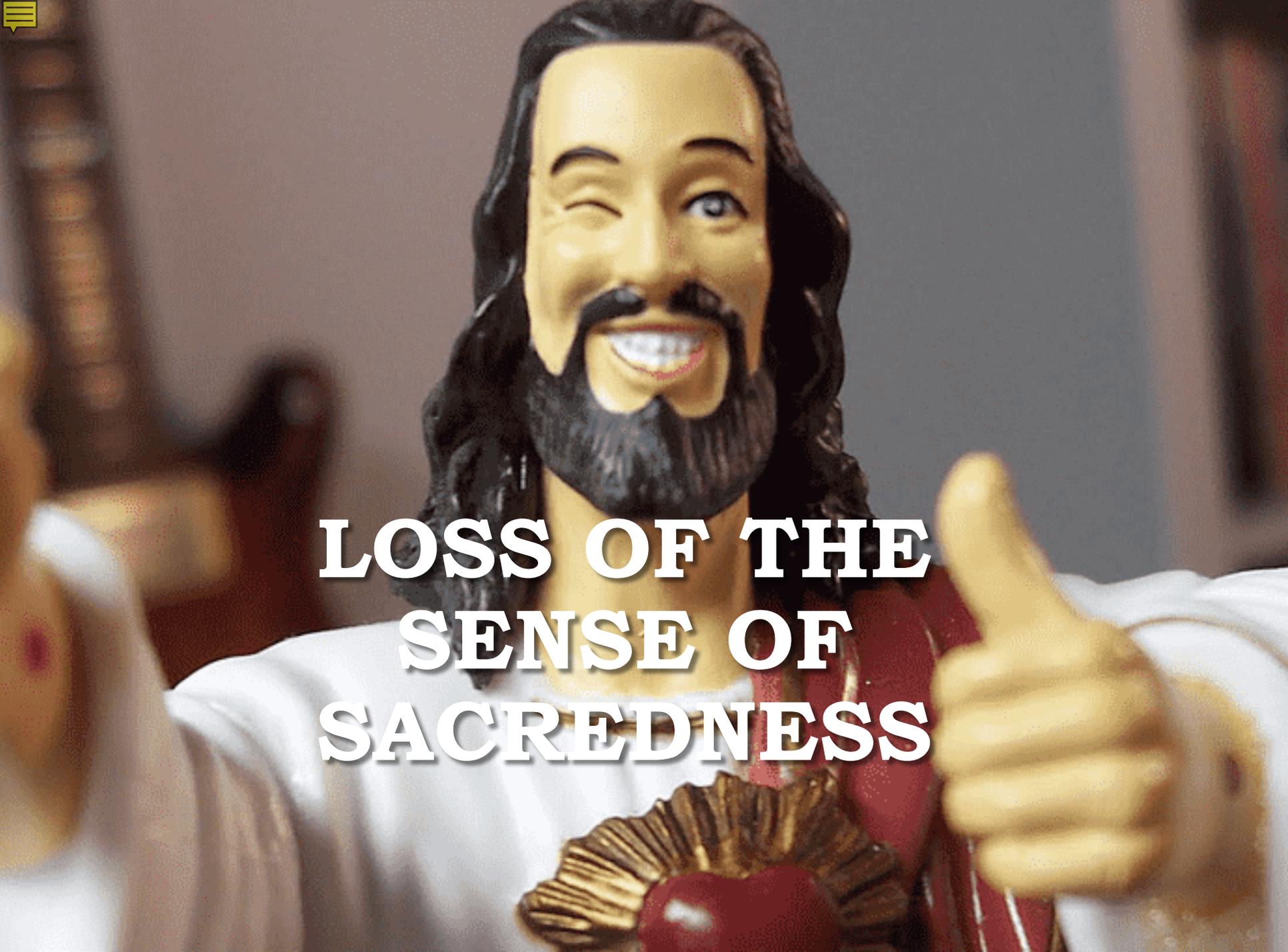




FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPT

Matthew 13: 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.”



A close-up photograph of a plastic figurine of Jesus. The figurine has a yellowish-gold face, long black hair, and a full black beard. It is winking with its right eye and giving a thumbs-up with its right hand. The figurine is wearing a white robe with a red sash and a gold and red decorative element at the bottom. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a church interior.

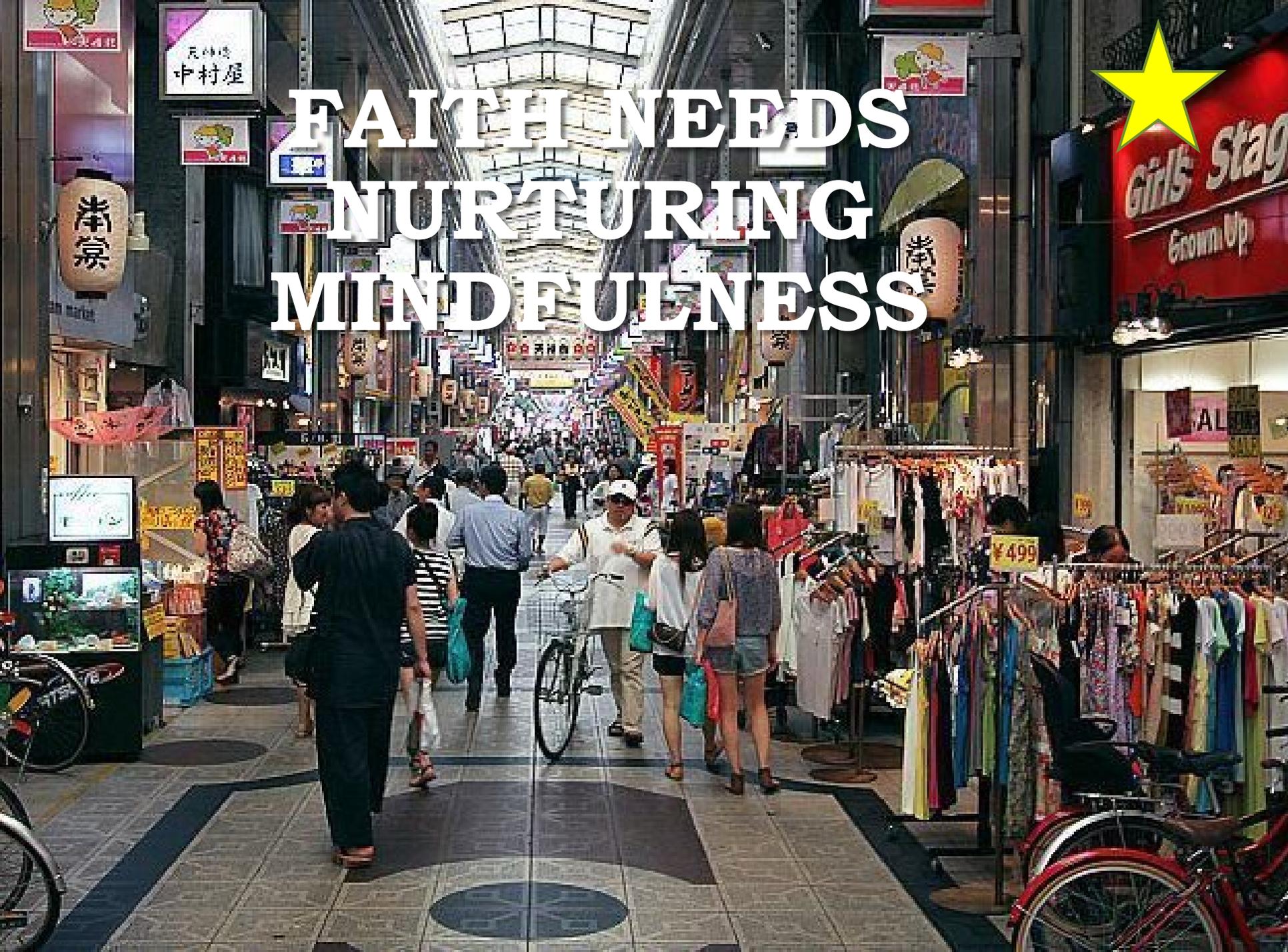
**LOSS OF THE
SENSE OF
SACREDNESS**

DANGERS

Localise God's Presence
Still worship behind the
curtains

Diminish God's Glory

FAITH NEEDS NURTURING MINDFULNESS



Pride



5 Herods in the NT



 @RomaInvicta753



@RomanInvicta753



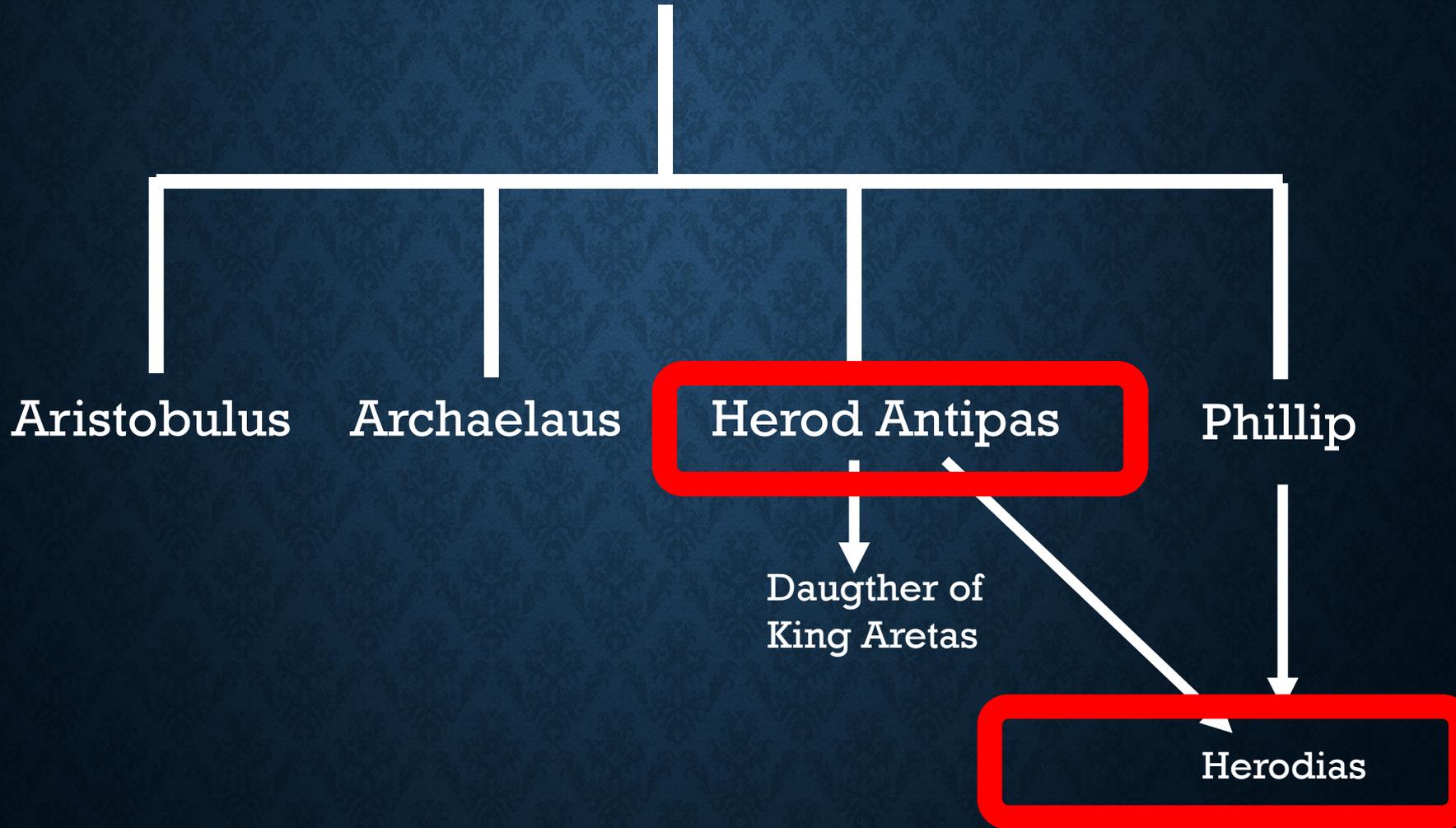








Herod the Great



PRIDE



UNBELIEF DRIVEN BY EMOTION

Matthew 14:1-2 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus, and he said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.”



Luke 23: 8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and **he was hoping to see some sign done by him.** 9 So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer.



Mark 1: 2 As it is written in Isaiah
the prophet, “Behold, I send my
messenger before your face, who
will prepare your way,³ the voice of
one crying in the
wilderness: Prepare the way of the
Lord, make his paths straight,””



WELCOME TO OUR

MIRACLE

Service

4TH MARCH
9AM - 12PM

With James Johnson

MAIN
SANCTUARY

STREET AVENUE, 1234, CHICAGO

Livestream

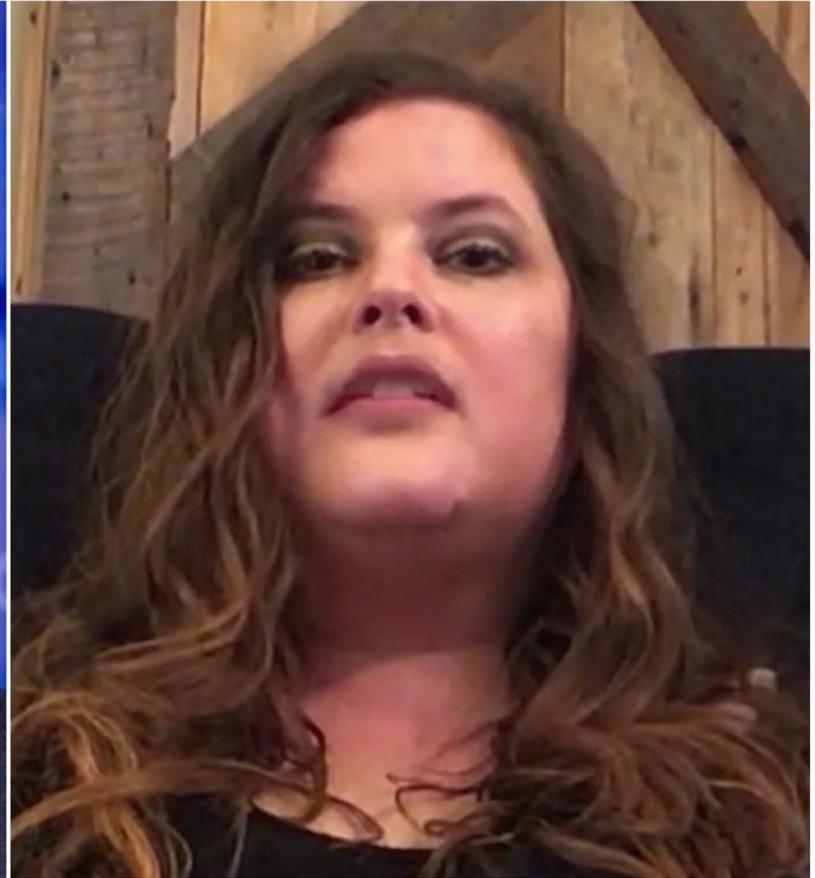
  Hopehill Church TV



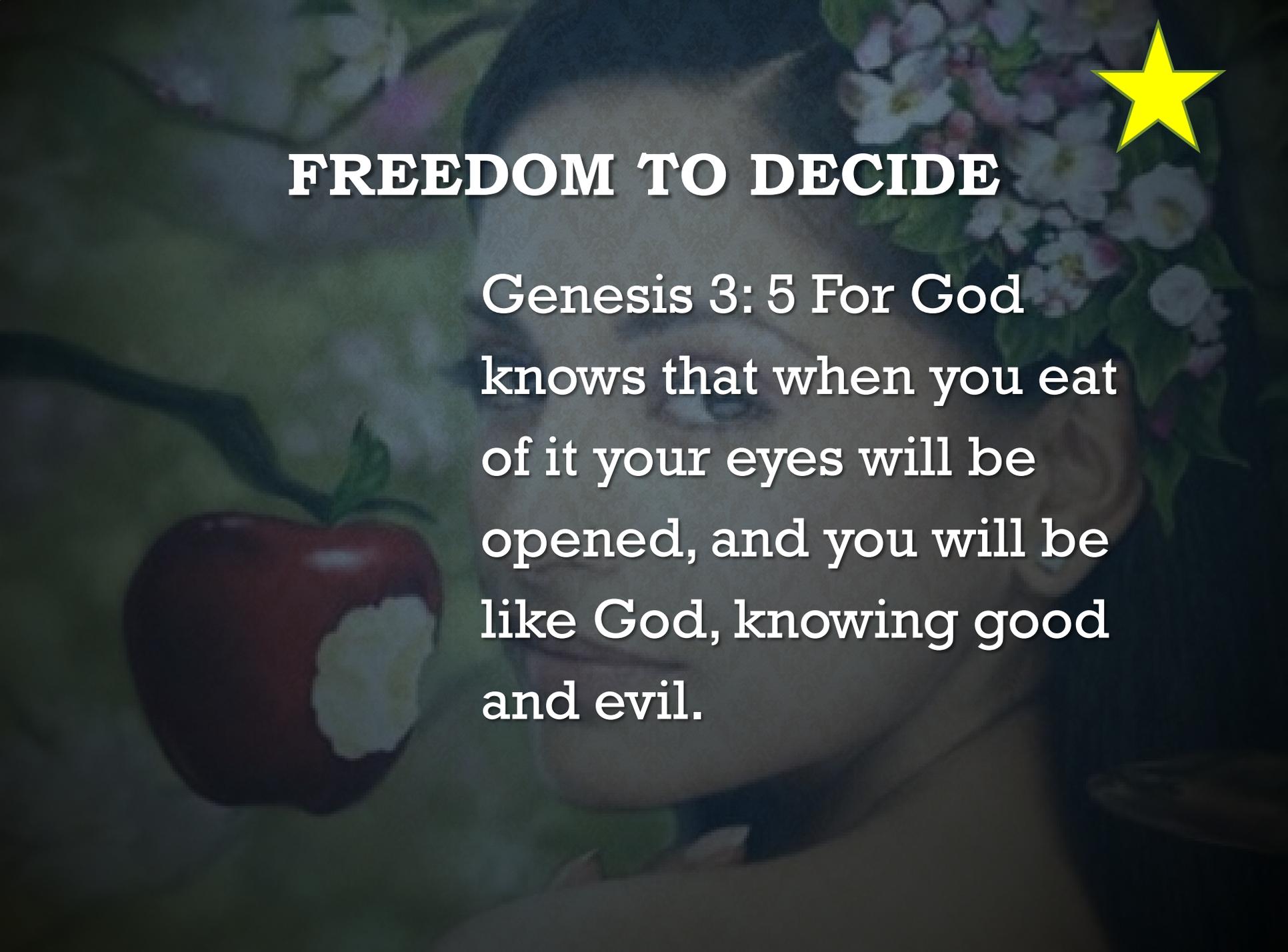
**MIRACLES ARE IN
RESPONSE TO FAITH
NOT TO PRODUCE IT**

**WE WANT GOD ON
OUR TERMS NOT HIS**

DR SANJAY GUPTA INTERVIEWS NURSE



**FREEDOM OF CHOICE
MY TERMS NOT GOD'S**

A woman's face is the central focus, with her eyes closed and a serene expression. Her hair is adorned with a crown of small white and pink flowers. In the lower-left corner, a red apple with a bite taken out of it is visible. The background is dark and textured.

FREEDOM TO DECIDE

Genesis 3: 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

THE TWO FACES OF UNBELIEF

1) What causes unbelief

2) What are the consequences of unbelief

3) How do we overcome unbelief

Matthew 13: 58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

Matthew 14: 12 And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus. 13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself



WHAT IMPRESSES GOD

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him



Mark 6: 5 And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And he **marveled** because of their unbelief.

Matthew 8: 10 When Jesus heard this, he **marveled** and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith

JUST BEFORE THE PROMISED LAND





Numbers 14: 20 Then the LORD said, “I have pardoned, according to your word. 21 But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be **filled with the glory of the LORD**, 22 none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, 23 shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it



PURPOSE OF THE MIRACLES

- To glorify God
- Only faith brings glory to God
- Miracles in the absence of faith
..serves to glorify man



**“IF YOU ARE THE
SON OF GOD,....”**







THE TWO FACES OF UNBELIEF

- 1) What causes unbelief
- 2) What are the consequences of unbelief
- 3) How do we overcome unbelief



COP 26 – FAILURE



A photograph of Greta Thunberg speaking at a podium. She is wearing a light blue sweater and has her hair in a braid. The background is dark with some green bokeh lights. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Youth 4Climate
Meeting Italy 2021
Greta Thunberg**

Blah Blah Blah

**Build back
better
Green Economy
Climate neutral
Net Zero**

THE GREATEST TREASURE



EXPLOSIVE POWER





It is what you
do with the
seed



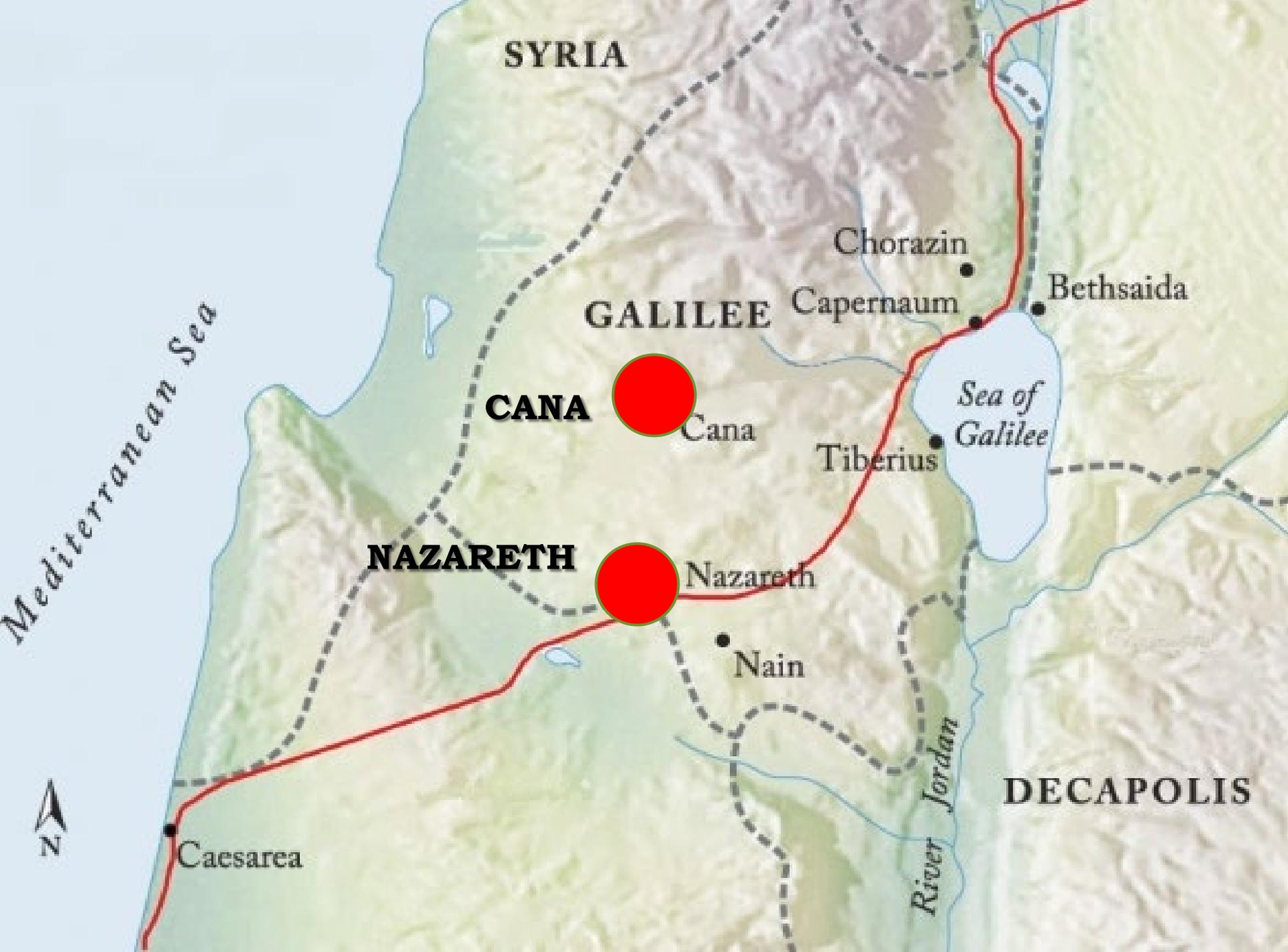
OVERCOMING PREJUDICE

John 1: 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”



GRIK

KUALA LUMPUR



SYRIA

GALILEE

CANA

Cana

NAZARETH

Nazareth

Chorazin

Capernaum

Bethsaida

Sea of Galilee

Tiberius

Nain

DECAPOLIS

River Jordan

Mediterranean Sea

Caesarea





THE INVITATION-RECEIVE THE SEED

John 1: 46 Philip said to him,
“Come and see.”



NATHANIEL'S ATTITUDE

John 1: 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!”



JACOB THE SWINDLER

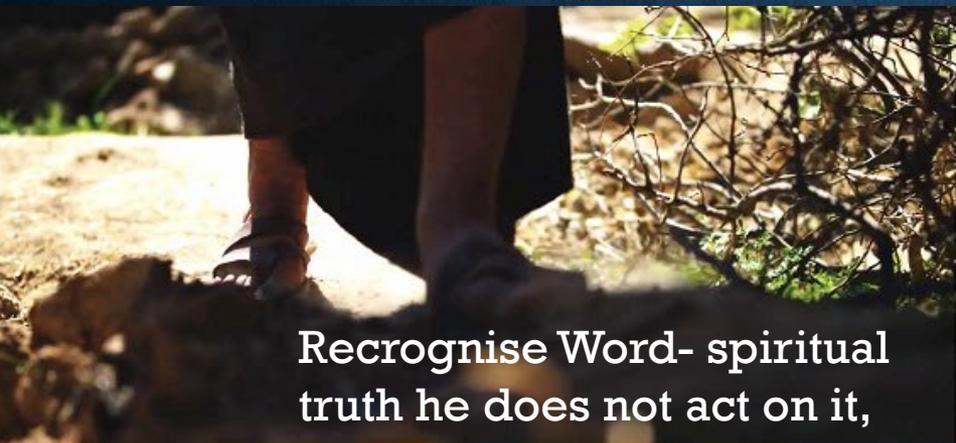
HONEST ISRAELITE-
CONTRADICTION IN TERMS





WILLING TO BE HONEST

**MATTHEW 5:3 BLESSED ARE THE
POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THEIRS IS
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**



Recognise Word- spiritual truth he does not act on it,

Path



DNA
What works for me
Not because truth

Stoney Ground



Competing loyalties

Thorny Ground

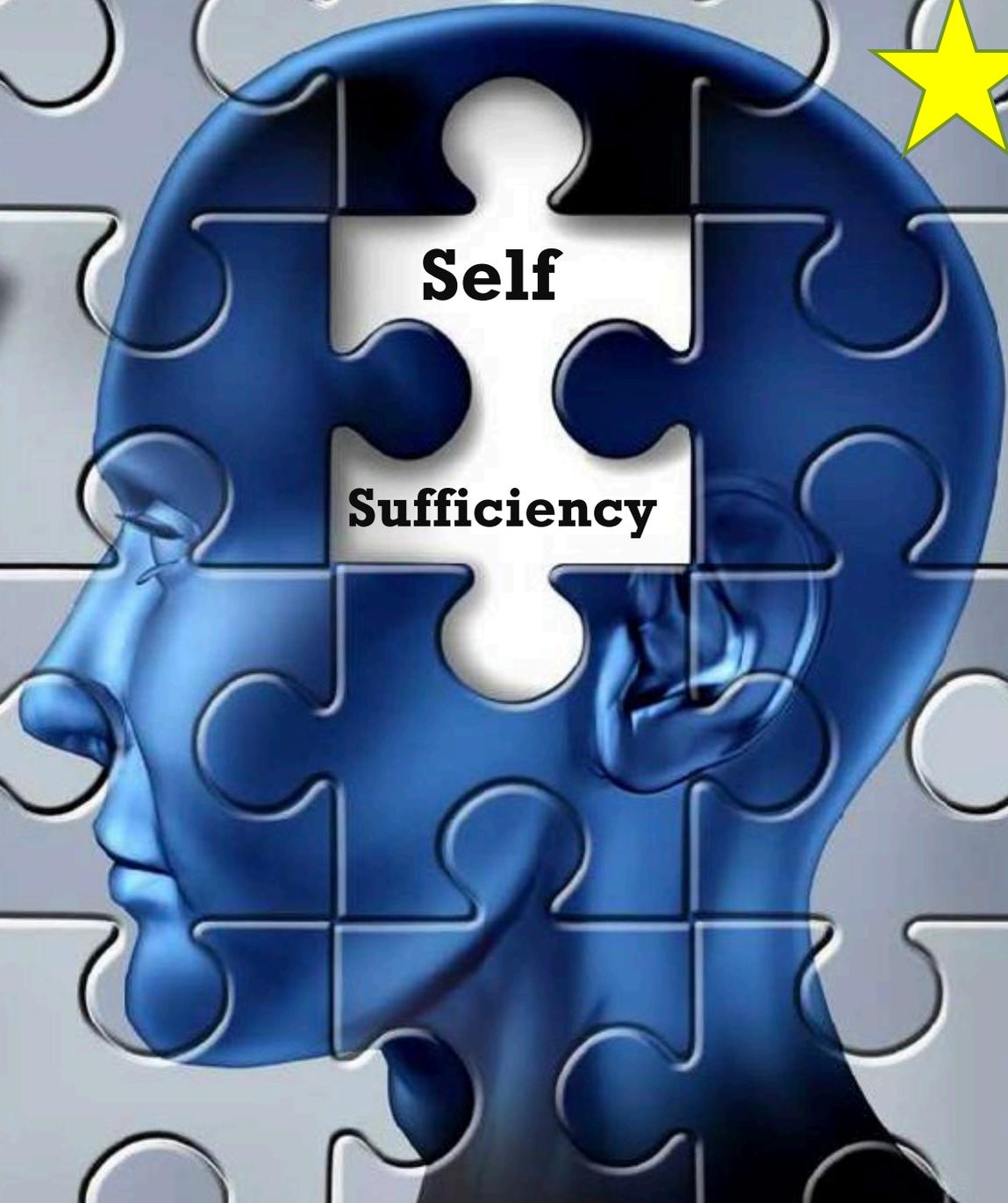
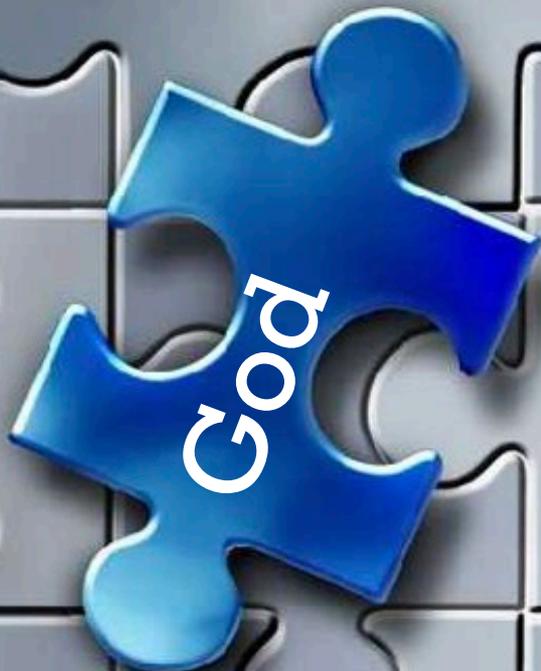


Good Soil

WE FORGET TO REMEMBER

Hosea 13:6 but when they had
grazed, they became full, they were
filled, and their heart was lifted up;
therefore they forgot me

Stony ground



Self
Sufficiency

IMPORTANT MEMORIALS

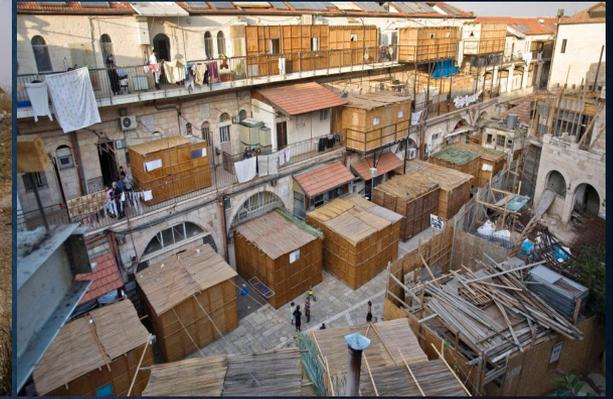
Passover
Crossing over Red Sea

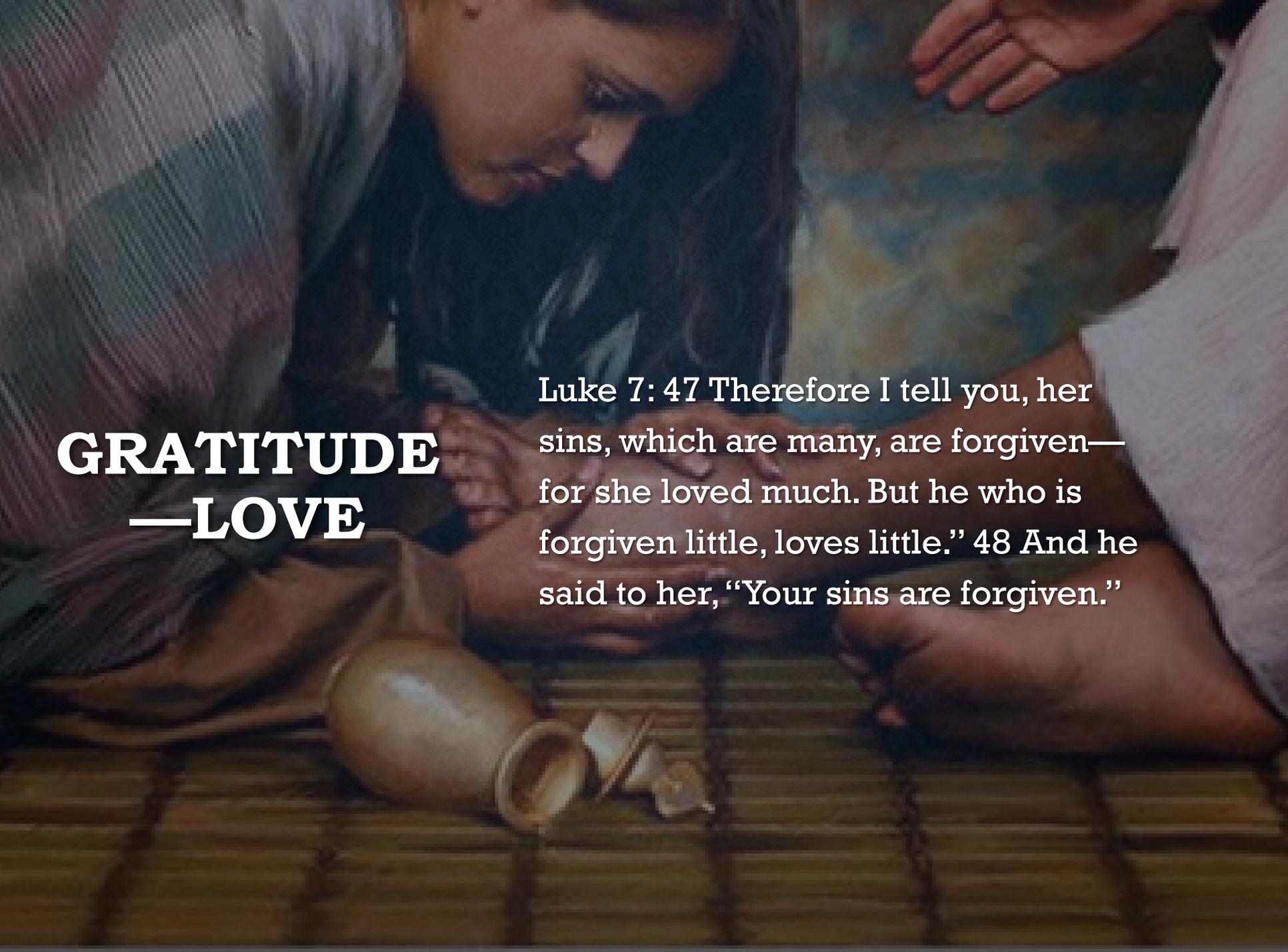


Memorial stones
Crossing over to Promised land



Feast of the Tabernacles
Crossing over the Sinai desert

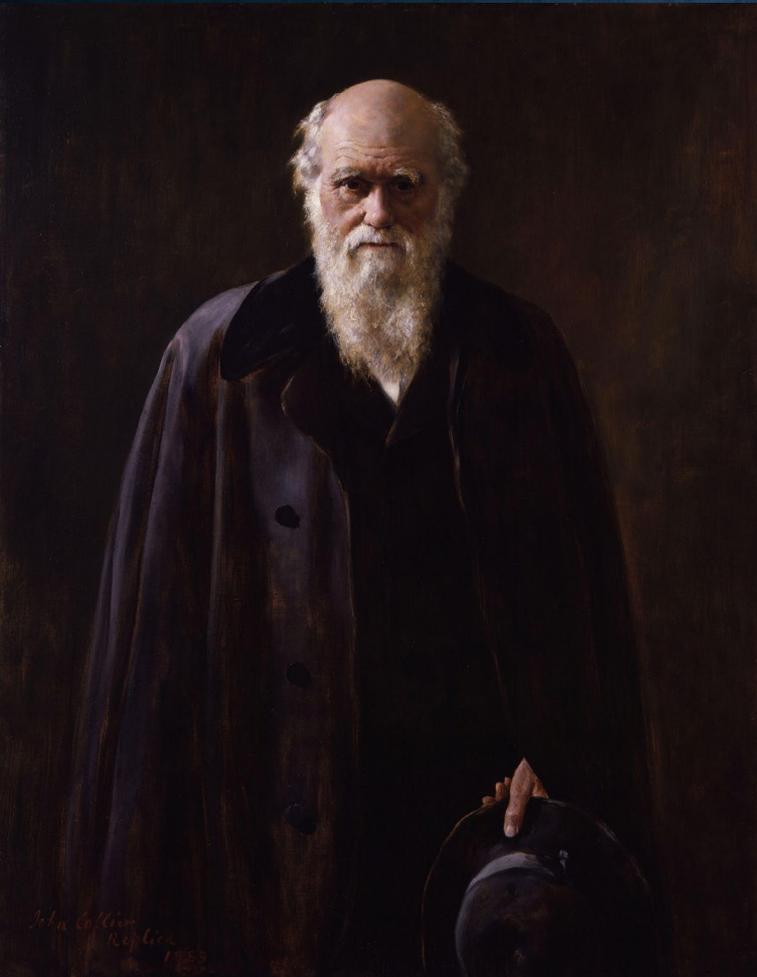




GRATITUDE —LOVE

Luke 7: 47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” 48 And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

CHARLES DARWIN



“I gradually came to disbelieve in Christianity as a divine revelation. . . . Disbelief crept over me at a very slow rate, but was at last complete. The rate was so slow that I felt no distress, and have never since doubted even for a single second that my conclusion was correct.”

CS LEWIS



“If you examined a  hundred people who had lost their faith in Christianity, I wonder how many of them would turn out to have been reasoned out of it by honest argument? Do not most people simply drift away?”

OS GUINNESS

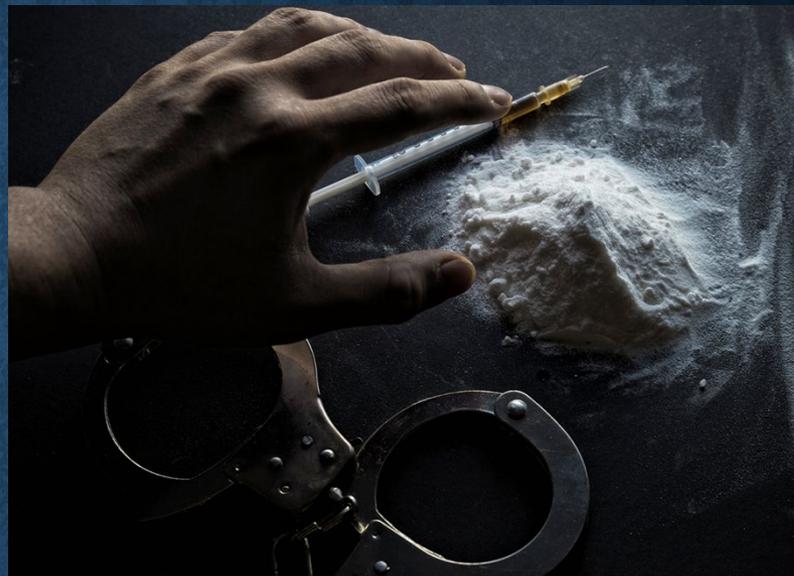


*Faith is not a thing
which one “loses,”
we merely cease
to shape our lives
by it.*

COMPOUNDING JOY



DIMINISHING RETURN



UNBELIEF



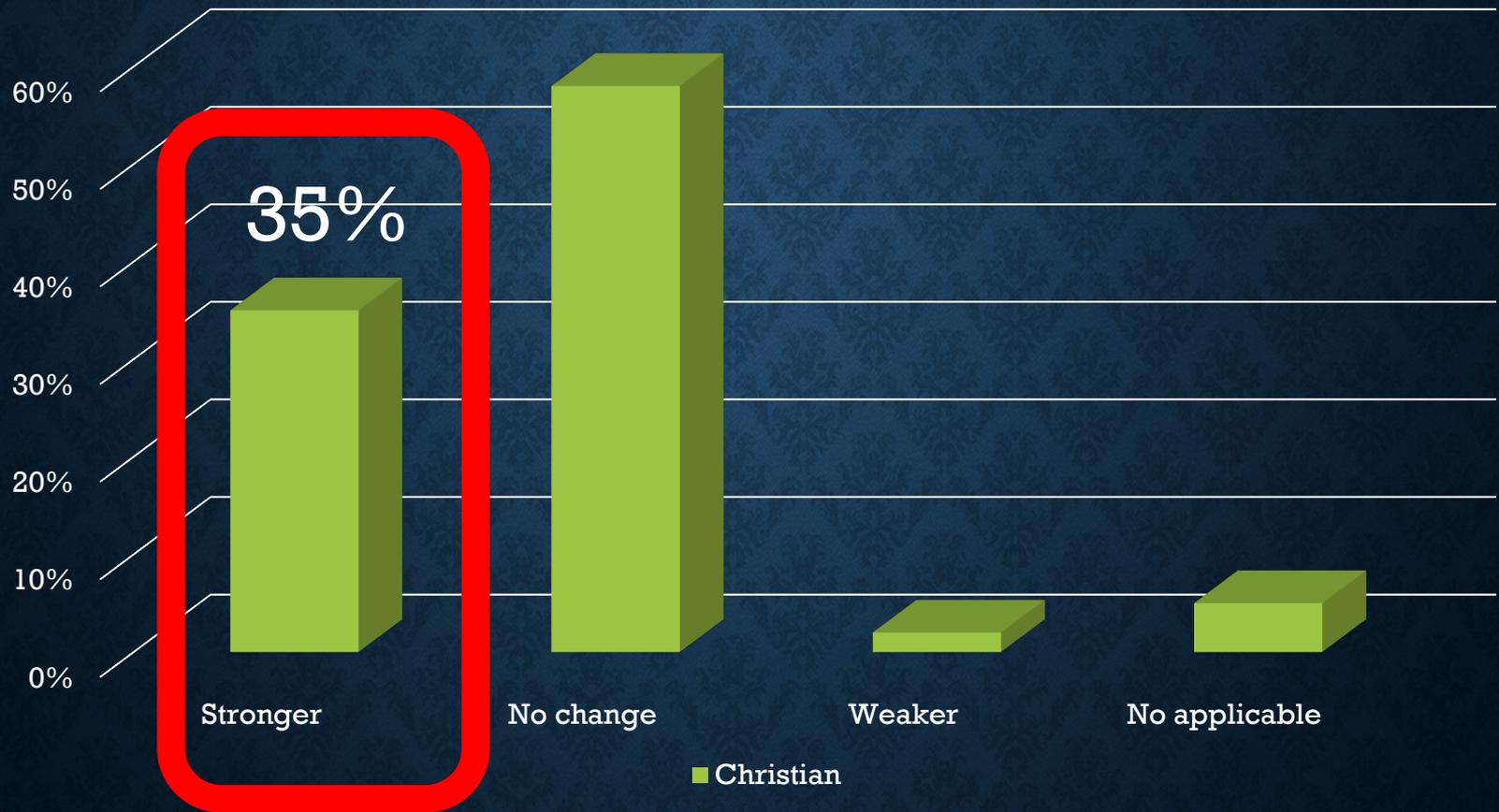
NEUTRAL GROUND

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC ON FAITH

US Christians



Pew Research Survey conducted April 20-26, 2020, among U.S. adults.

N = 18,192 1996-2020

BIBLE READING IN AMERICA: 1993-2020



% WHO HAVE READ THEIR BIBLE IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS



FREQUENCY OF BIBLE READING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

THE SEED UNRAVELS- REVELATION

John 1: 48 Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”



THE RESPONSE

John 1: 49 Nathanael answered him,
“Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You
are the King of Israel!

JOHN 1: 50

Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” 51 And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the



John 21: 1 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together.



Matt 13: 44b Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.



Psalms 17:15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

Psalms 22:8 He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”



Faith is squeezed by our narrow views of God



View of God

Faith



Faith is a dynamic process

SMALL VIEW OF GOD



Genesis 17: 12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” 13 The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

SMALL VIEWS OF GOD



Power but no love

Mark 1:40-42

**“If you are willing, you
can make me clean**

Love but no power

Mark 9:22-24

**But if you can do anything,
take pity on us and help us.”**

MARTY SAMPSON



“This is a soapbox moment so here I go . . . How many preachers fall? Many. No one talks about it.

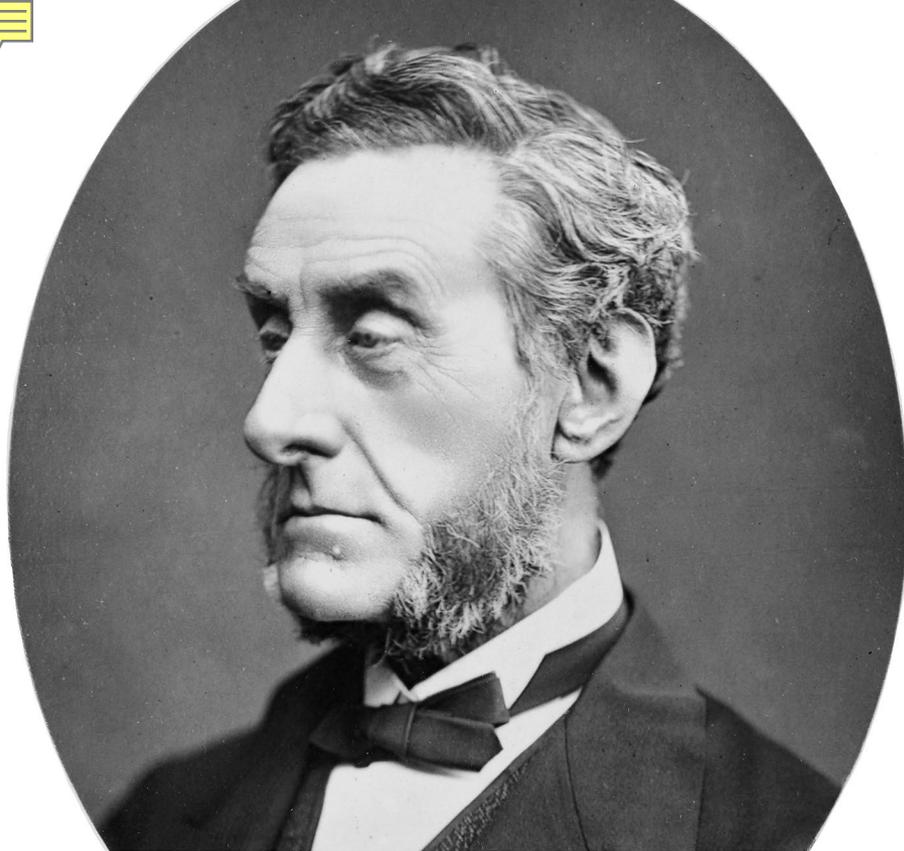
How many miracles happen. Not many. No one talks about it.

Why is the Bible full of contradictions? No one talks about it.

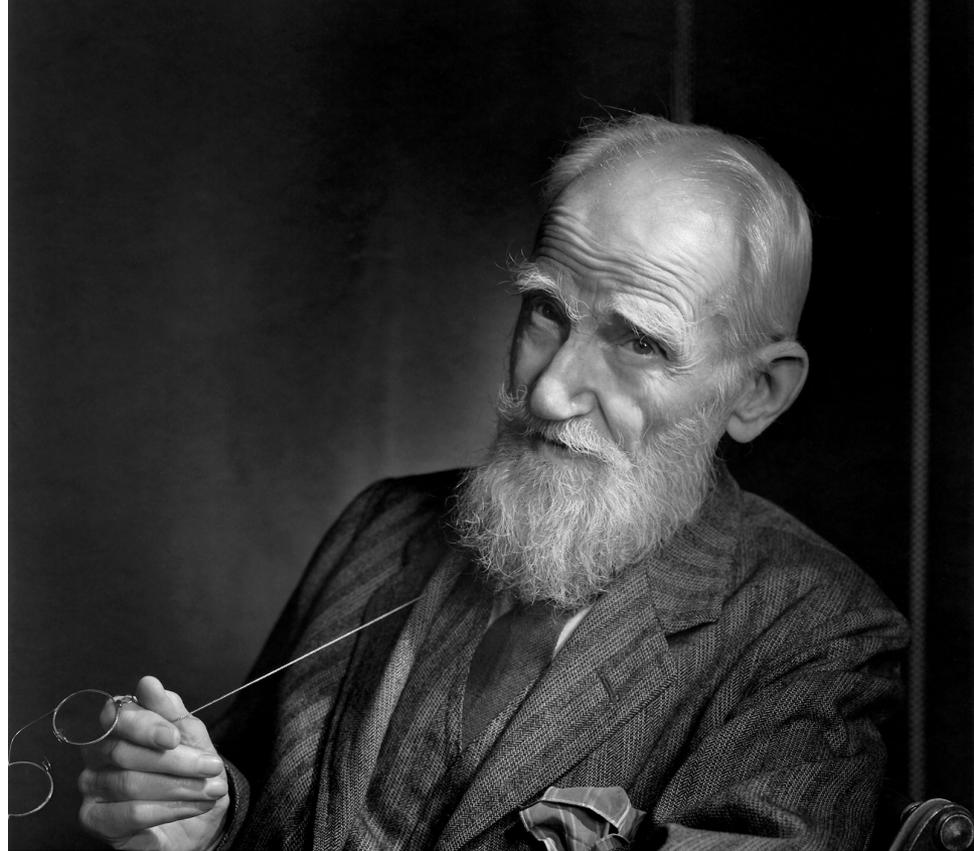


MARTY SAMPSON

How can God be love yet send four billion people to a place, all 'coz they don't believe? No one talks about it. Christians can be the most judgmental people on the planet — they can also be some of the most beautiful and loving people. But it's not for me”



**LORD ANTHONY
ASHLEY COOPER**



**GEORGE BERNARD
SHAW**



- 1842 The Coal Mines Act 1845
- 1847 The Lunacy Act secured the humane treatment of the insane...
- The Ten Hours Factory Acts through Parliament, which regulated working hours for women and children. He was the acknowledged leader of all this factory reform.
- 1851 The Common Lodging House Act sought to end the insanitary and overcrowded conditions of these lodging houses,
- Boy chimney-sweeps, flower girls, orphans, prostitutes, prisoners, handicapped people and crippled children



- “There is no real remedy, he often said, for all this mass of misery, but in the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Two men, living at roughly the same time in the same city, appraised the same problem and arrived at two different conclusions. Their opinions were not formed from the London streets but from something more subjective and philosophical—the predispositions of their hearts.



Along with the fool, Shaw said in his heart, “there is no God” (Ps. 14:1). Cooper, on the other hand, had made up his mind that God existed and decided that it was his Christian responsibility to act in His Name to do something about the suffering in his world



THE INVITATION

John 1: 46 Philip said to him,
“Come and see.”