

Next Week Sermon

**Knowing the Heart of
God - Why He Chooses
the Poor (Part 2)**

James 2:5-17

PREACHER

Dr. Peter Ng

March 19, 2023

**Joy and the
Knowledge of
God**

1 John 1-4

PREACHER

William Ngeow

March 26, 2023

**Dealing with
the Enemy
Within**

1 John 1:5-10

PREACHER

John Lee

KNOWING THE HEART OF GOD
WHY HE CHOOSES THE POOR PT 1
JAMES 2:1-7



BOOK
OF

JAMIES

A FAITH THAT WORKS

- Started Wednesday
- Knowing God and Adversity
- Morning and 2023 onwards
- Underline to 2024 onwards
- Memorialism
- Contact Church office
- The Christian and the Word
- Patience
- Praying for the sick
- Spiritual Restoration for the Poor

Biblical Principle

James 2:1-7 1 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the

Example

2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while

Reasoning

the other man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet,"

4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

REASONS AGAINST PARTIALITY

James 2:8–17 (ESV) If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. 11 For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Faith Without Works Is Dead

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

- 1) True faith has no place for partiality
- 2) The basis of partiality is judgement
- 3) We are neither qualified nor entitled to judge others
- 4) We need to see ourselves in the light of Christ

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

Imperative -Command

James 2:1-4 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. 2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet.”

BACKGROUND FOR THE WORD



ἐν προσωποληψίαις

Prosoopolemphiais

- Not found in secular Gk or even Septuagint LXX
- Direct translation from the common Hebrew term for favor/favoritism, *nāśā' pānîm*

OT BACKGROUND



Favouritism

Positive

Negative

1 Sam 25:35-David grants
petition
Mal 1:8 Govenor grants favor

Deut 1:17 Judges not partial

OT BACKGROUND OF JUDGES



Leviticus 19:15 (ESV) You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

BASED ON CHARACTER OF GOD



Deuteronomy 10:17–18 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. 18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.

JUDGE EXERCISES SOCIAL JUSTICE



PAUL NOT INTIMIDATED BY OTHER APOSTLES

Galatians 2:6–7 And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. 7 On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised

USHERS







HOW THEY DID TREATED PEOPLE

James 2:3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,”

A large crowd of people, likely a political rally, wearing red caps with a white hammer and sickle symbol. Many are holding red flags with the same symbol. A man in the center has his fist raised. The text "IS IT ABOUT EQUALITY?" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

IS IT ABOUT EQUALITY?

FRENCH REVOLUTION

1793-94



CULTURAL REVOLUTION

1966-1976



HONOR



Proverbs 24:21 (ESV) My son, fear the LORD and the king, and do not join with those who do otherwise,

1 Peter 2:16–17 (ESV) Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.





acknowledge inherent dignity

HONOR---DECORUM IN THE CULTURE



1 Timothy 5:1-2 (ESV) Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

Culturally appropriate
expressions of Respect

Orthodox Jew



Catholic Nun



Muslim



Orthodox Christian Nun



EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY



1 Corinthians 11:11-12 Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; 12 for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.

Genesis 1:27 (ESV) So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

1) True faith has no place for partiality

2) The basis of partiality is judgement

3) We are neither qualified nor entitled to judge others

4) We need to see ourselves in the light of Christ

Biblical Principle

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Reasoning

4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

A close-up photograph of a judge in a black robe. The judge's right hand holds a wooden gavel with a brass band, resting on a wooden base. The left hand holds a pair of brass scales of justice. On the wooden table in front of the judge, there is a stack of US dollar bills. The background is dark and out of focus.

James 2:4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Usurping God's role

Judge through externalities

DISCRIMINATION

“unfair or prejudicial treatment of people and groups based on characteristics such as race, gender, age, or sexual orientation “

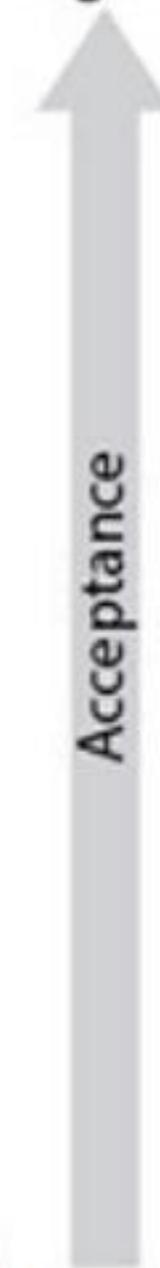
American Psychological Association



<https://www.apa.org/topics/racism-bias-discrimination/types-stress>

Lighter

Higher



Chinese

Caucasian

Japanese/ Korea

Indonesian/ Malaysian/ Filipino

Thai/ Vietnamese/ Cambodian

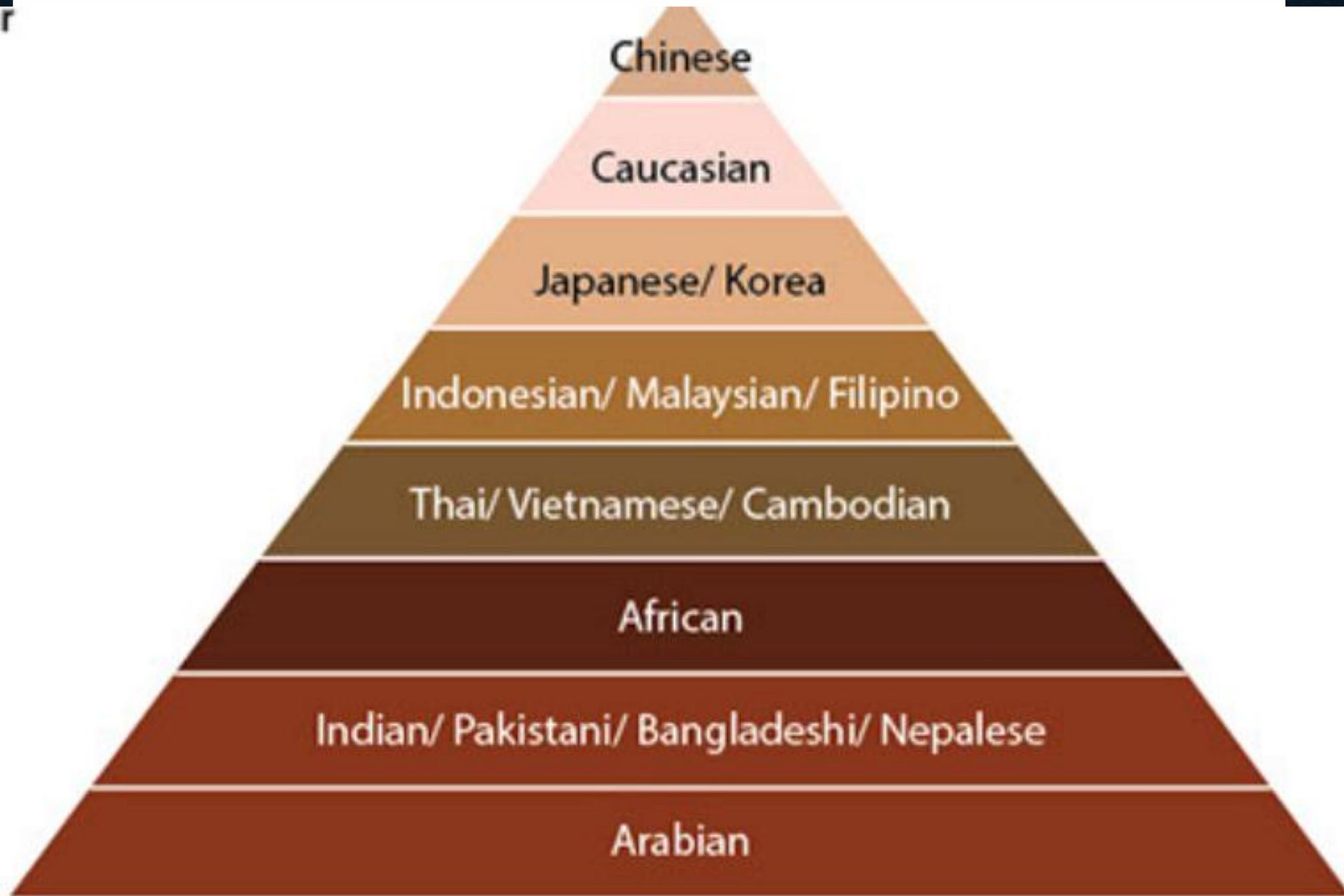
African

Indian/ Pakistani/ Bangladeshi/ Nepalese

Arabian

Darker

Lower



MALAYSIA'S EX-PM
MAHATHIR QUILTS
PEJUANG PARTY HE
FOUNDED, PICKS
GTA AS NEW
POLITICAL
PLATFORM

NEW STRAITS TIMES
UPDATED
11 FEB 2023 AT 10:36 PM SGT

**"CALL ME
RACIST, BUT
MALAYS ARE
NOW LEFT
BEHIND
AFTER
GIVING WAY
TO THE
FOREIGNERS,"**

FREE MALAYSIA TODAY
ELILL
EASWARAN • WEDNESDAY





A wedding photograph of a bride and groom. The bride is on the left, wearing a white lace strapless dress and smiling. The groom is on the right, wearing a black tuxedo with a white shirt and black bow tie, also smiling. A boutonniere is pinned to the groom's lapel. The background is plain white.

Married at first sight 2022

Carolina and Dion

I am very tall when I am standing on my wallet

PSYCHOLOGICAL BASIS



- Fear
- Ignorance
- Bias
- Over-generalisation

Stereotype

Thinking

Prejudice

Feeling

Discrimination

Behaviour



Stereotype

Thinking

Poor person is smelly
Useless, Lazy
Uneducated

Prejudice

Feeling

Angry
Revulsion

Discrimination

Behaviour

Avoid
Put at the back of church





Stereotype

Thinking

Poor person illegal
Un-invited
Threatened my job
Competition
Threat

Prejudice

Feeling

Angry
Revulsion

Discrimination

Behaviour

Avoid
Put at the back of church

STEREOTYPES AND SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY



THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

1) True faith has no place for partiality

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others

4) We need to see ourselves in the light of Christ



James 2:4 have you not
then made distinctions
among yourselves and
become judges with evil
thoughts?

Unqualified because of ulterior
motive

Unqualified because of lack spiritual
insight

Rich person are
better than the
poor-status

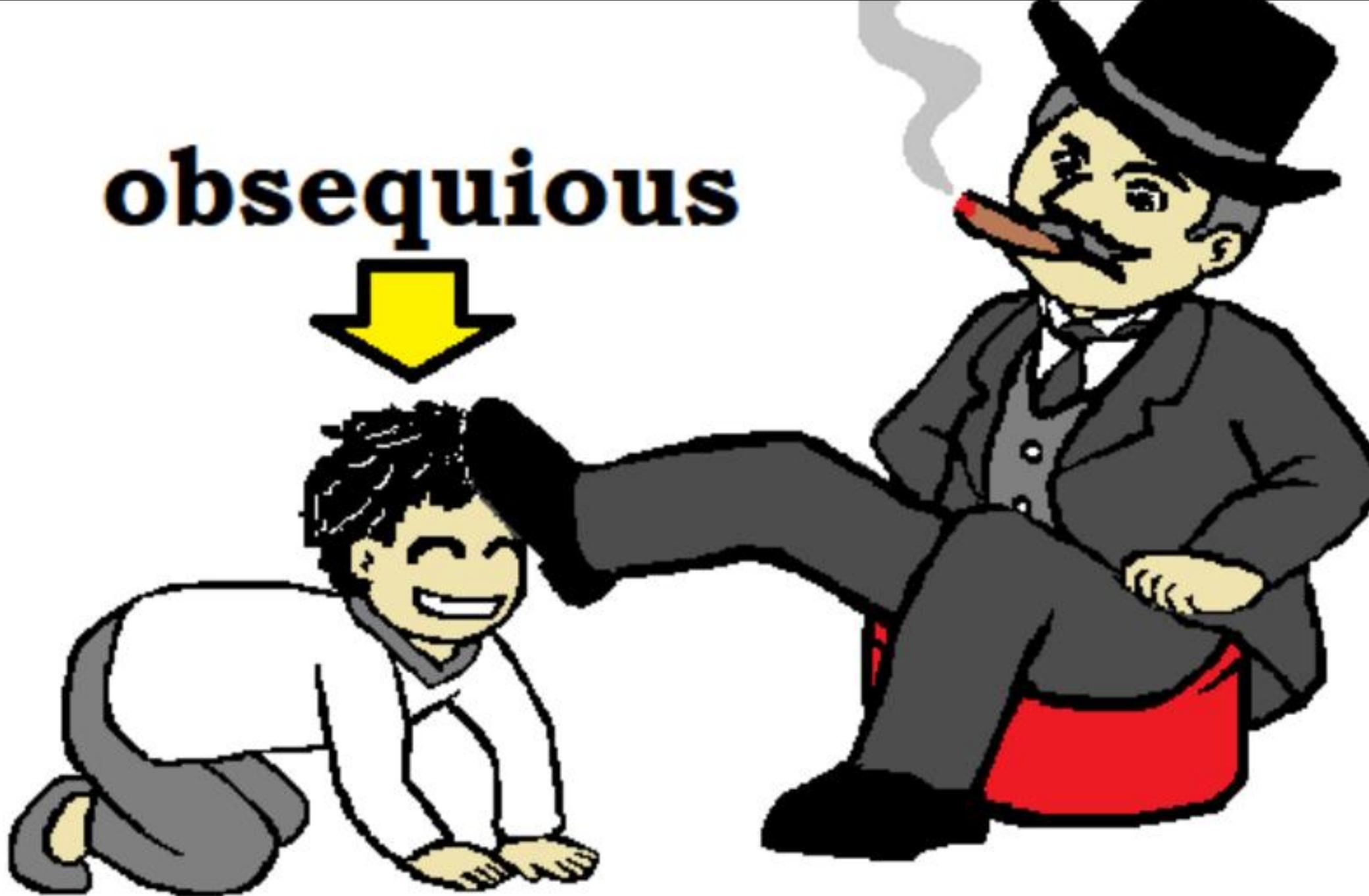
What's in it
FOR ME

Rich person
may bring
Personal
benefit

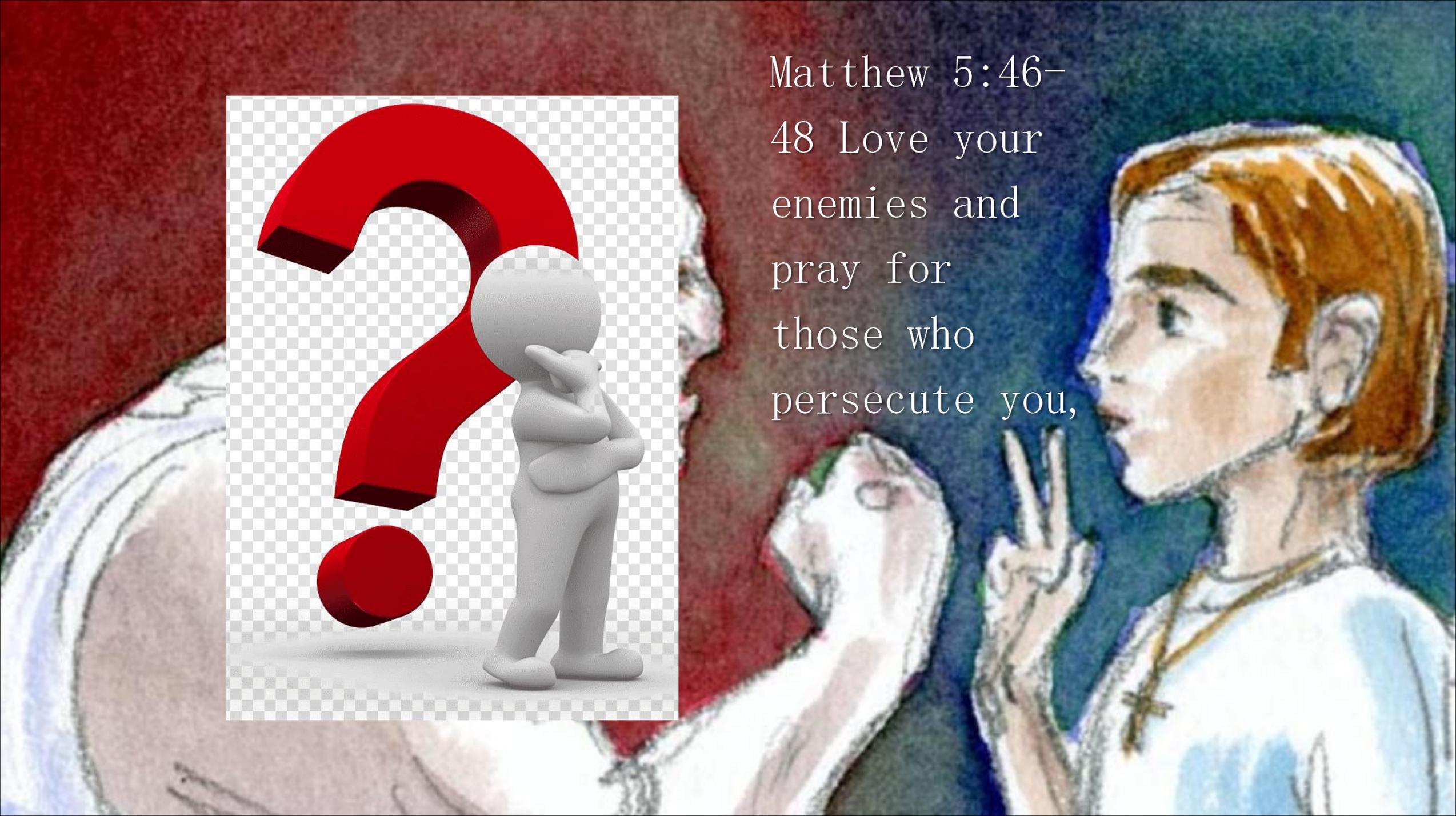
A close-up photograph of a human hand, palm up, reaching out from the left side of the frame. The hand is positioned below the central text.

The poor may ask for
a loan

obsequious



Matthew 5:46-
48 Love your
enemies and
pray for
those who
persecute you,



WE NEED TO REFLECT OUR FATHER

Matthew 5:46–48 Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Scripture	Literal Translation	KJV	NIV
Neh 12:28	Sons of the singers	Sons of the singers	Muscians
Ps. 89:22	Son of malice	Son of wickedness	The wicked
Job 5:7	Sons of a flame	Sparks	Sparks
2 Sam 17:10	Sons of might	A mighty man	A fighter
Mark 3:17	Sons of Thunder	Sons of Thunder	Sons of Thunder

HOW THE FATHER IS PERFECT-IMPARTIAL

Matthew 5:46-48 Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.



Trinity

Intra-Trinitarian

God's Love

Providential

Salvific

Special

Conditional

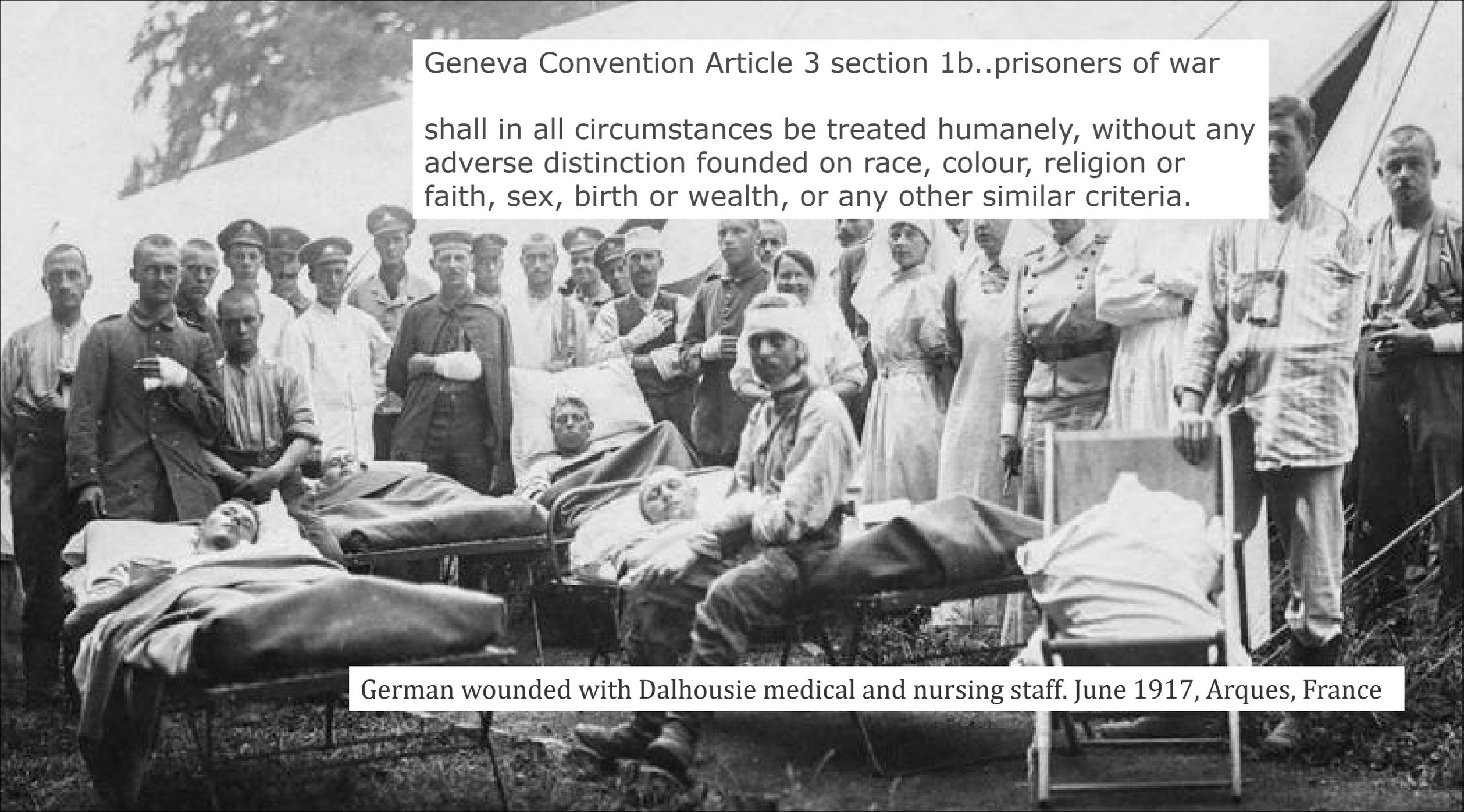


All peoples



Church

Geneva Convention Article 3 section 1b..prisoners of war shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria.



German wounded with Dalhousie medical and nursing staff. June 1917, Arques, France

WHO DESERVES HELP
WRONG QUESTION

Seeking
Human
Kindness



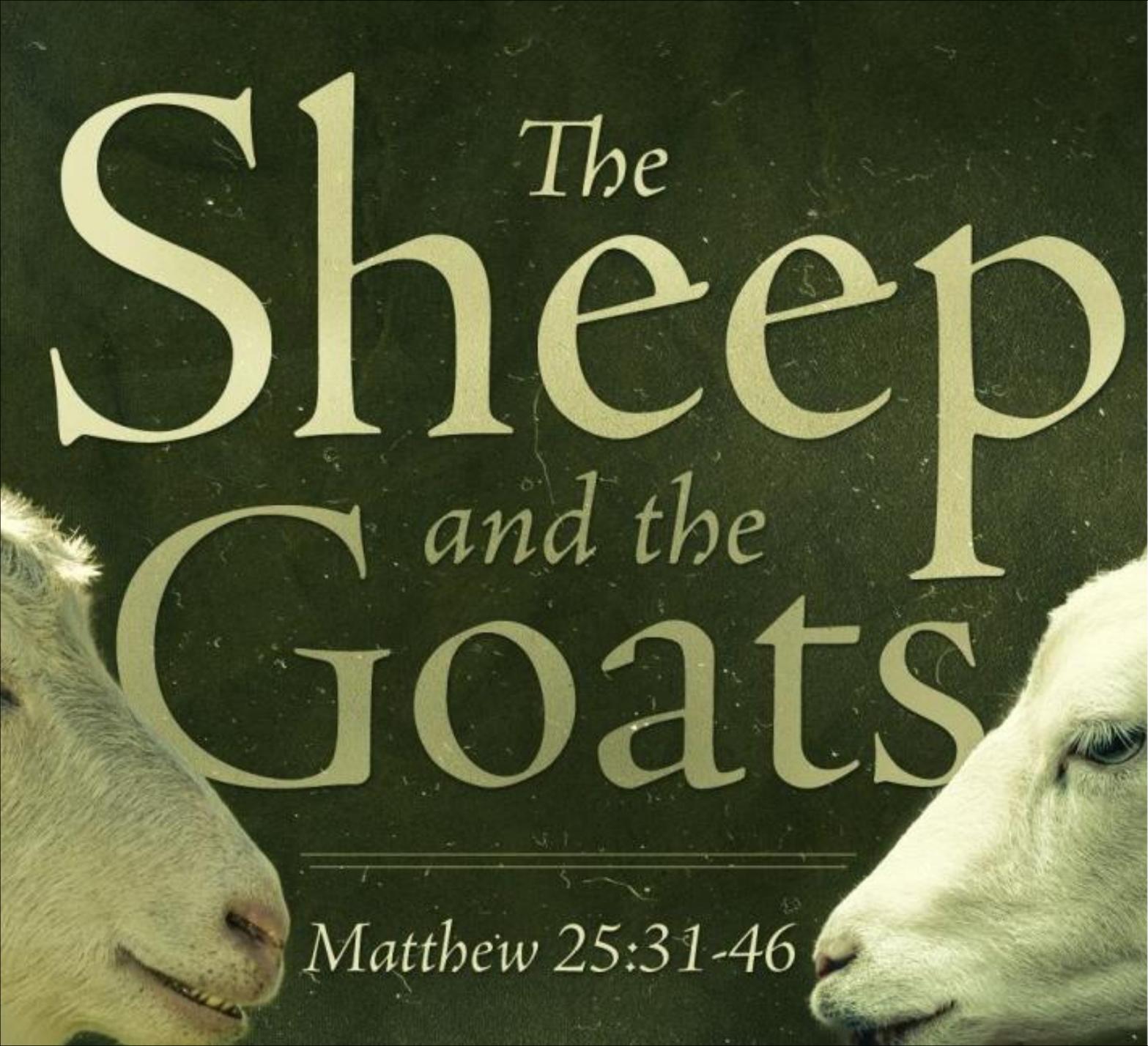
THE MYTH OF THE DESERVING POOR



A man in a dark, heavy coat is running through a heavy rain. He is holding a small child in his arms. In the background, a crowd of people is also in the rain, some looking towards the man. The scene is dark and dramatic, with the rain creating a sense of urgency and hardship.

ITS IS ABOUT THE RAIN GOD'S LOVE IN TRANSFORMING LIVES

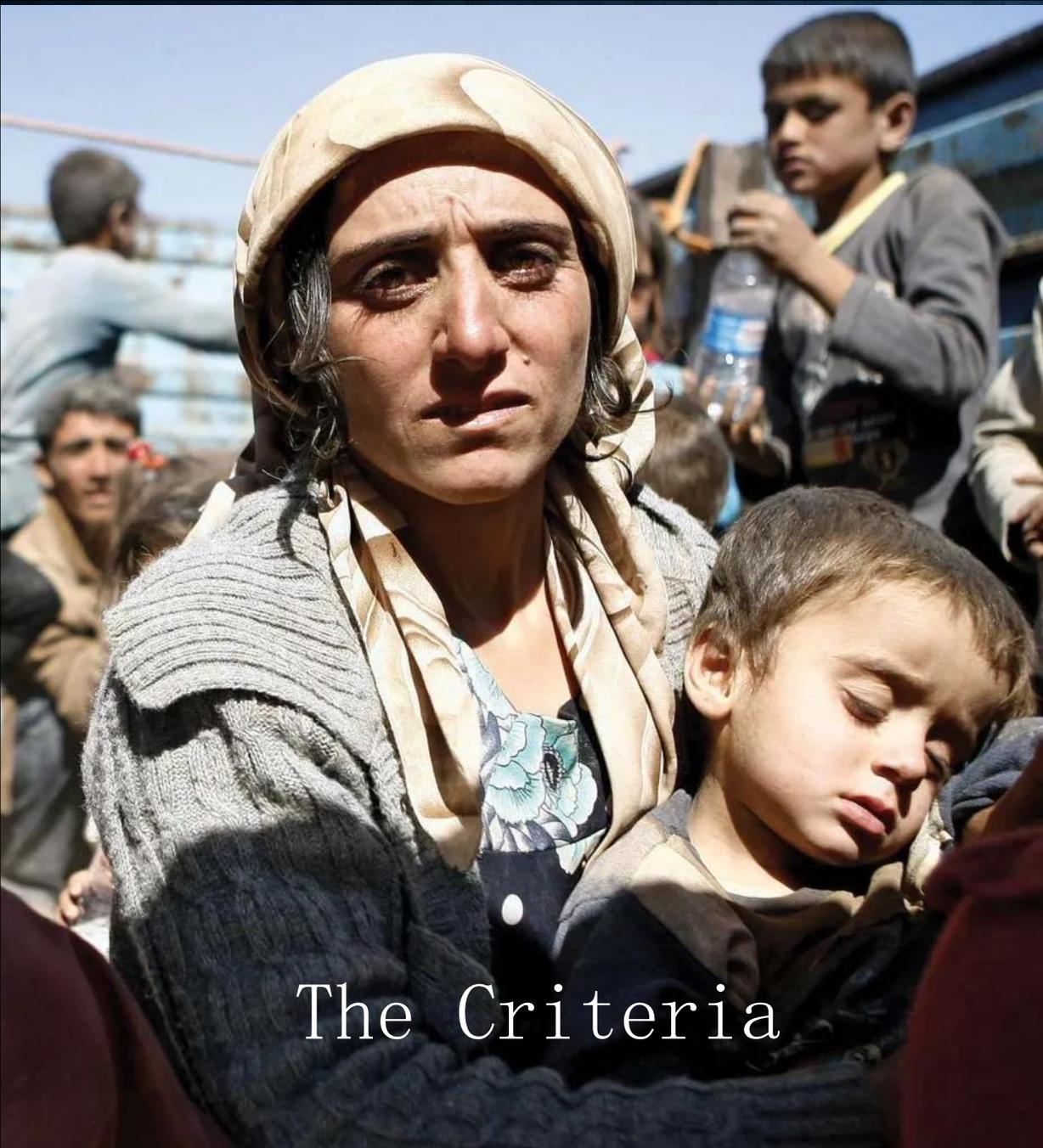
*The nature of Grace -For no one is
worthy.*



The
Sheep
and the
Goats

Matthew 25:31-46

Matthew 25:35-36 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'



The Criteria

Legal

Deserving

Effective

Attitude

Crime

Motive

Hungry

Thirsty

Stranger

Naked

Sick

Prison



MATTHEW 25:35-36

For..... I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you clothed me,
I was sick and you visited me,
I was in prison and you came to me.'

THE KEY WORD..WHEN



Matthew 25:37 (ESV) Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?’

YOU ARE RESPONDING TO HIM



Proverbs 19:17 Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.

2 Corinthians 9:10–11 (ESV) He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

THE RIGHT QUESTION



*HOW CAN I BEST
EXTEND GOD'S LOVE
TO THIS PERSON
TODAY?*

*WHAT ACTION WILL
BE THE MOST LOVING
AND
TRANSFORMATIONAL
IN THIS PERSON'S LIFE?*



KELUAR

FACING
FEAR
TRUSTING
GOD

Menu
Date: ...
Time: ...
By: ...
Checked by: ...
Menu
1. ...
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. ...
6. ...
7. ...
8. ...
9. ...
10. ...

GODLY GENEROSITY



1 Timothy 6:18–19 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?



2 Corinthians 8:12-15 For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.



2 Corinthians 8:13 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness 14 your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. 15 As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

OUR TEMPTATION—BE THE JUDGE



Matthew 5:46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

TRANSACTIONAL LOVE IS SELFISH LOVE

People who reaffirm your status



People who add to your prestige

People who make you feel good
look up to you

People who can advance your position

LACK SPIRITUAL INSIGHT

Aorist imperative

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

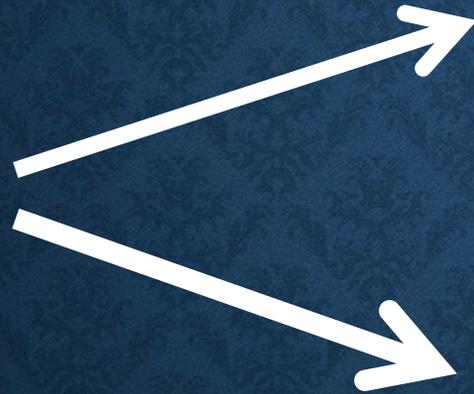
USHERS=JUDGES



OT BACKGROUND



Anaw
Heb



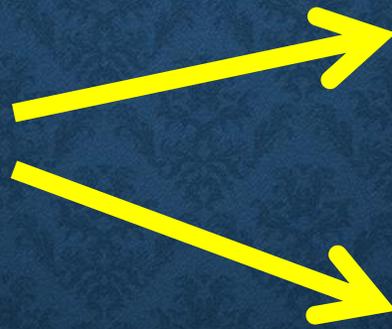
Materially poor

people who are "poor" in a spiritual sense: humble and meek, recognizing their utter dependence on the Lord and trusting him for deliverance

SEMANTIC RANGE OF PTOOCHOS



Ptoochos
Gk



Materially poor

Spiritually poor

Luke 6:20 And he lifted up his eyes on his
disciples, and said:



“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is
the kingdom of God.

Matthew 5:2–3 And he opened his mouth and
taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

GOD SEES SOMETHING WE DON'T SEE

James 1:16-17 (ESV) Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights

James 1:22 Deceived self in only hearing and not acting
hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror

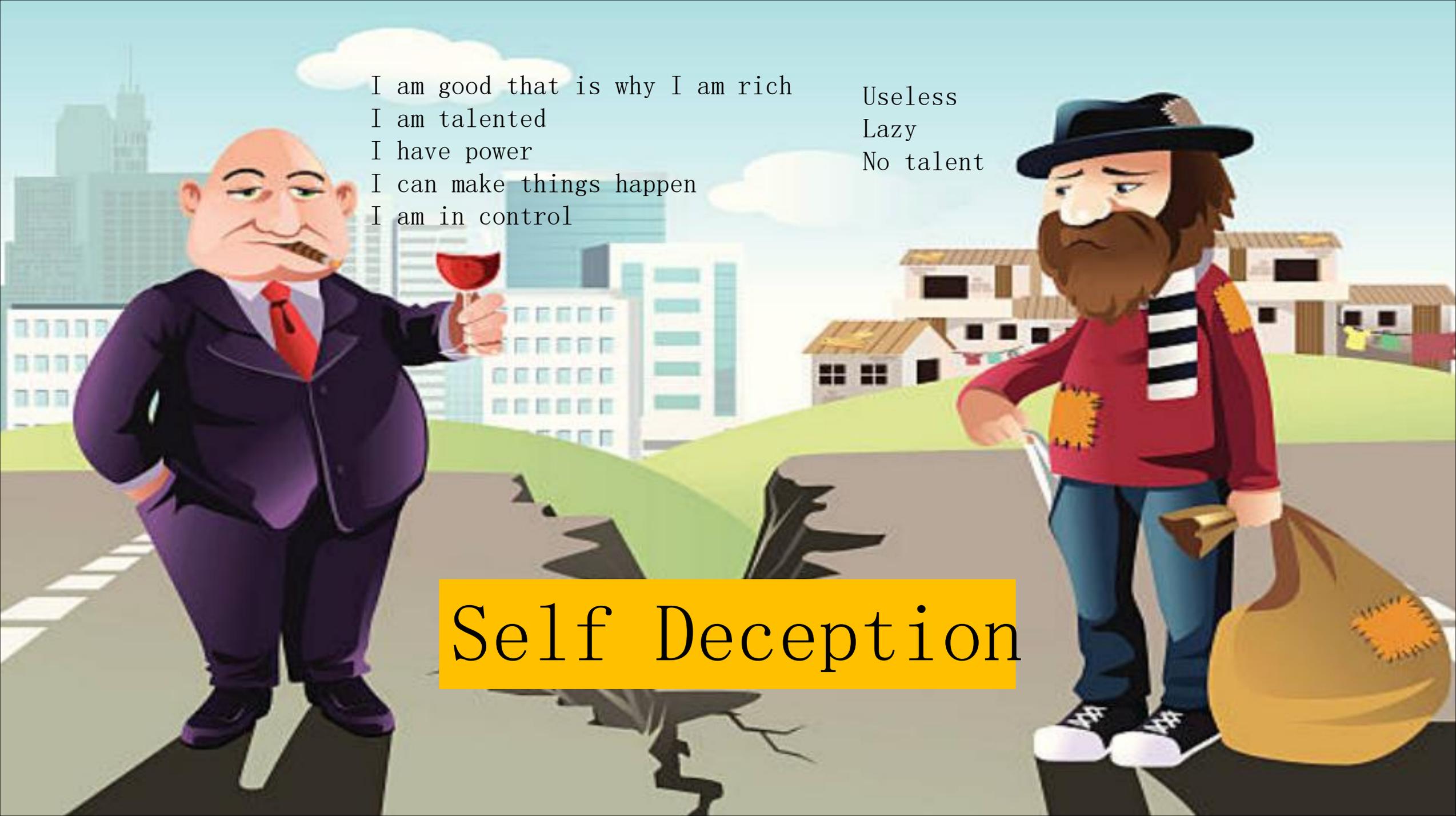
Deceived self in outward religiosity with no change in character nor compassion

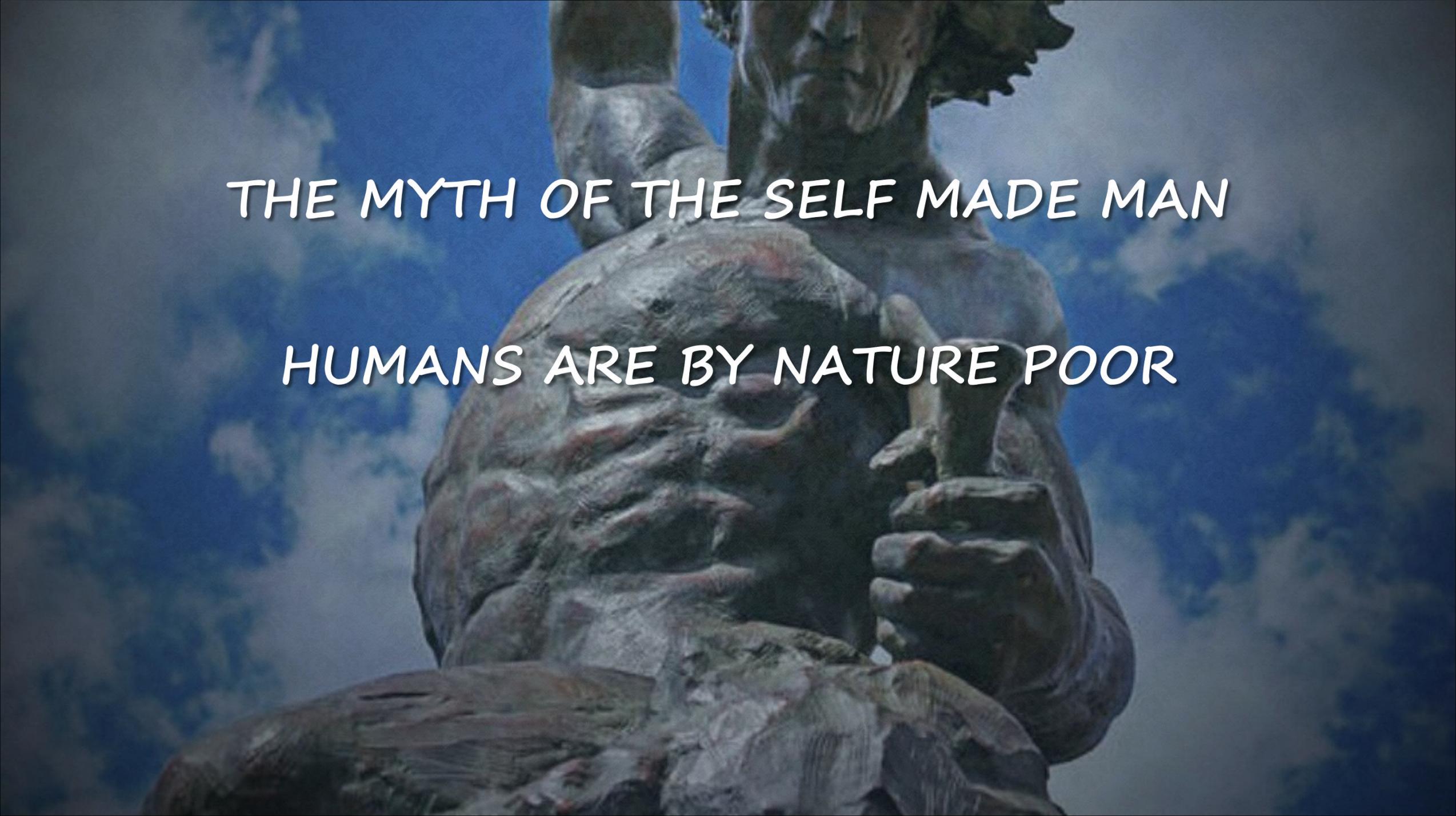
James 1:26-27 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue or deceive his heart

I am good that is why I am rich
I am talented
I have power
I can make things happen
I am in control

Useless
Lazy
No talent

Self Deception





THE MYTH OF THE SELF MADE MAN

HUMANS ARE BY NATURE POOR

A newborn baby is sleeping peacefully in a wicker basket. The baby is wrapped in a light pink, textured fabric. The basket is made of light-colored wicker. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

POVERTY IS THE PRIMARY FACT OF HUMAN EXISTENCE

Born beggars

Birth is a gift

Nurtured by parents

Rich people have forgotten
this

Taught language

Taught morality

BLIND



Luke 12:15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

A man wearing a blue cap and a purple polo shirt is shown in profile, looking thoughtful with his hand to his face. The background is a blurred green golf course.

5 MOST COMMON REGRETS OF BILLIONAIRES

- Not jumping on great opportunities
- Not living in the present
- Not starting soon enough
- Not being bolder
- Not changing fast enough
- Mistakes and failures are necessary



BLINDNESS OF THE RICH

Matthew 19:24–25 Again
I tell you, it is
easier for a camel to
go through the eye of
a needle than for a
rich person to enter
the kingdom of God.”

THERE IS A REASON GOD CHOOSES THE
POOR
IS GOD UNFAIR?



James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

THERE IS ONLY ONE CURRENCY IN GOD'S UNIVERSE



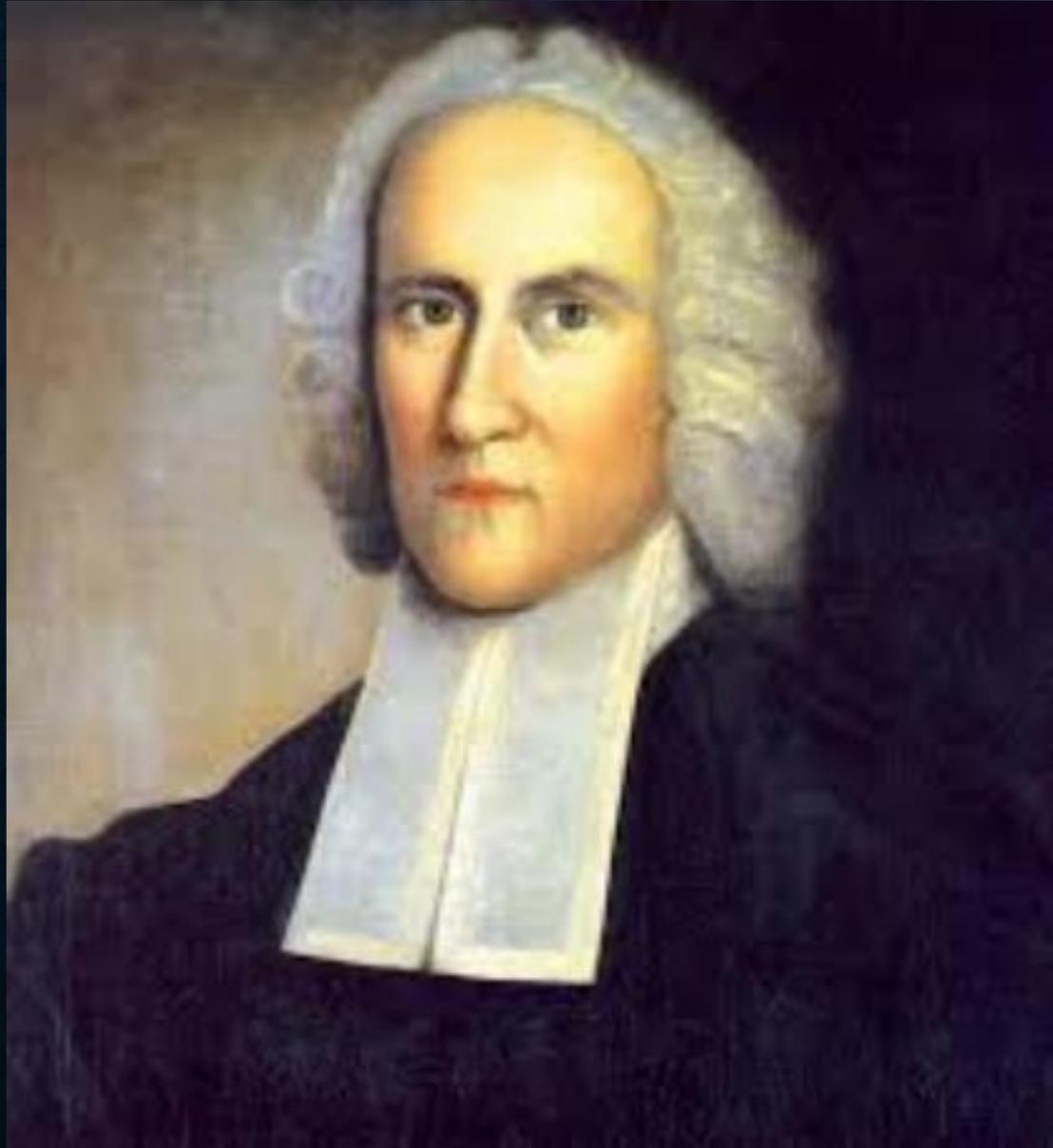
Hebrews 11:6 (ESV) And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.



MISPLACED HONOR—GAVE TO THE WRONG PERSON

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man.

JONATHAN EDWARDS



, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,”

Deliberately choose the poor
Not wait for poor to come to
us

It insults them

If you were in that position
how would you like to be
treated?

THE POOR HAS THE GREATEST NEED



EQUALITY

EQUITY

GOD

CHOICE



6 But you have
dishonored the poor
man.

We



HIGHLIGHTS HIS POWER AND CONDEMNS MAN'S PRIDE

worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

THE FALLACY OF OUR JUDGEMENT

James 2:6–7 But you have dishonored the poor man.
Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and
the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not
the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by
which you were called?



THOMAS
TRAIN

Elon Musk might have more than 82 million Twitter followers



ELON MUSK BUYS TWITTER

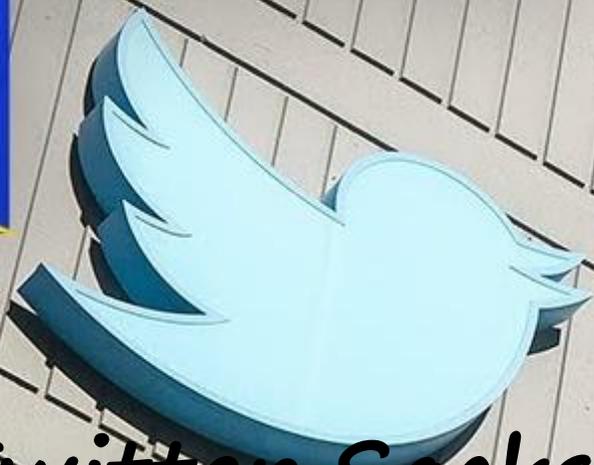
A photograph of Elon Musk speaking, with his arms outstretched. He is wearing a black leather jacket over a black t-shirt. Behind him is a large, light blue Twitter bird logo on a dark blue background.

"That is why I bought Twitter, I didn't do it because it would be easy, I didn't do it to make more money."

"important for the future of civilisation to have a common digital town square".

TWITTER LAYOFFS

Today



Twitter Sacks
"Roughly 80%"
Of Staff,

*Elon Musk fired Twitter's head
of sales after she refused to sack
more employees*



Robin Wheeler—Head of Sales



OOPS. TWITTER IS
ALREADY TRYING TO
REHIRE WORKERS
ELON MUSK FIRED
DAYS AGO, SOURCES
SAY

*"Important to
admit when I'm
wrong & firing them
was truly one of my
biggest mistakes."*

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

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IF YOU REALLY BELIEVED...SOURCE
OF ALL GLORY

James 2:1-4 My brothers, show no partiality as
you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Lord of glory.

BEHAVIOUR (DOING)

show no partiality

BEING

Faith

Jesus the
Lord of
Glory



Kavod

Weight
Worth
Value,

*results in
praise.*

A dramatic painting of Moses in a rocky cave. He is depicted from the waist up, wearing a blue robe with a yellow sash. He has a long white beard and is looking upwards with his arms raised in prayer. The scene is lit by a bright light source from above, creating strong highlights and deep shadows. The background consists of dark, textured rock formations.

Exodus 33:18-19 (ESV) Moses said,
“Please show me your glory.”

WE CANNOT STAND OUR FRAILTY

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

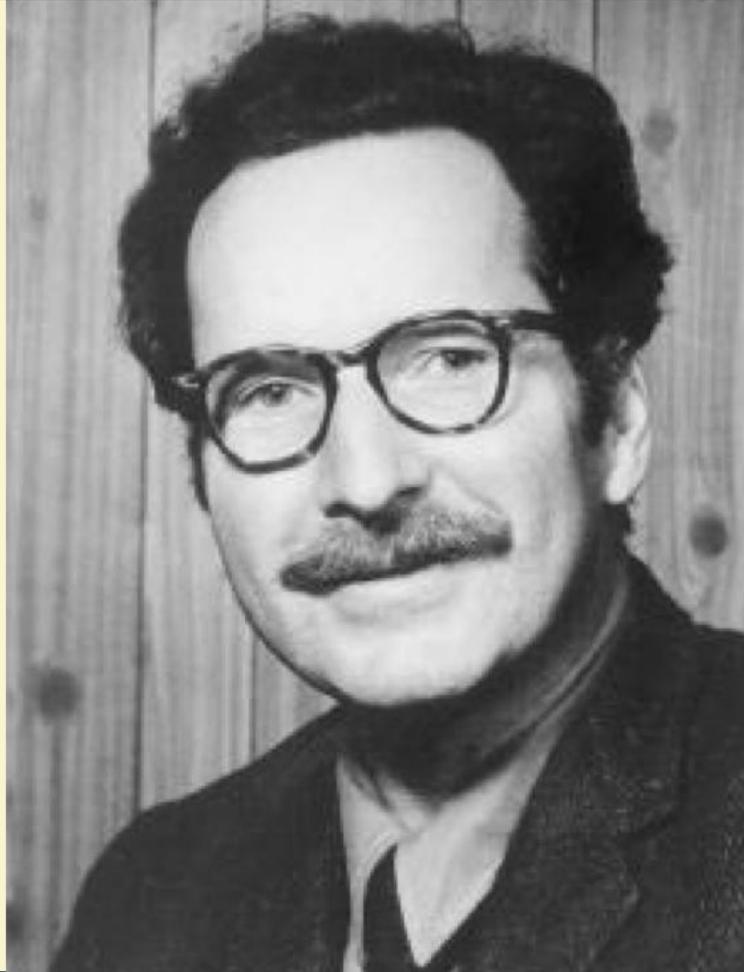
"A brave work of electrifying intelligence and passion,
optimistic and revolutionary, destined to endure."
New York Times Book Review

THE DENIAL OF DEATH ERNEST BECKER

"An original, creative contribution to a synthesis of this
generation's extensive explorations in psychology and theology."
The Boston Herald

"One of those rare masterpieces that will stimulate your thoughts, your intellectual
curiosity, and last but not least, your soul."
Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, author of *On Death and Dying*

INDEPENDENT VOICES



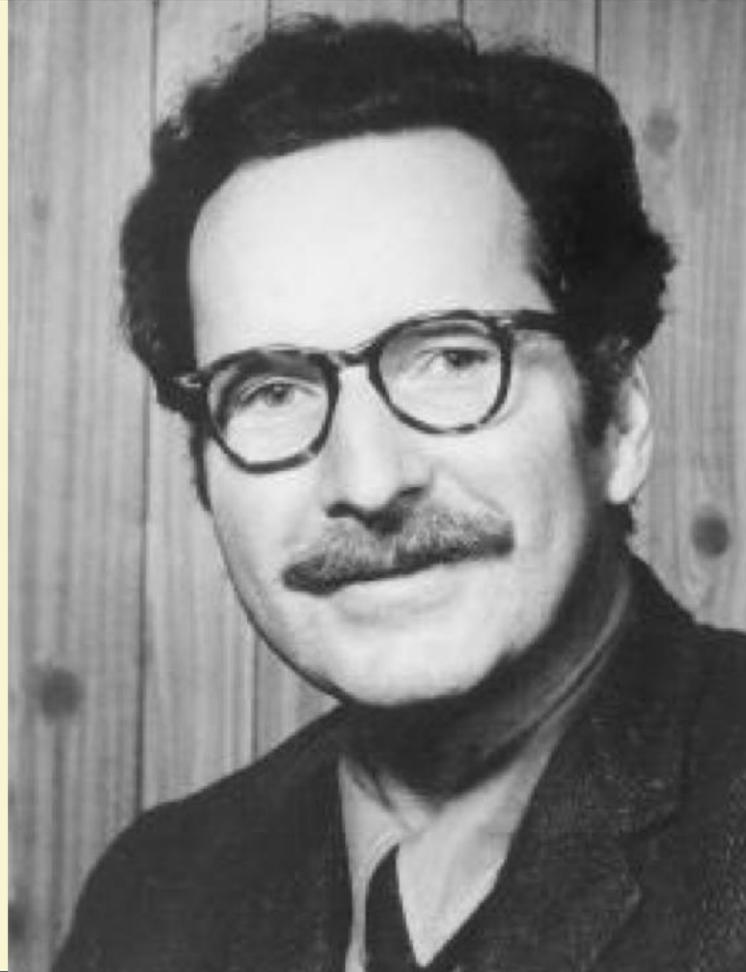
Man is literally split in two: he has an awareness of his own splendid uniqueness in that he sticks out of nature with a towering majesty, and yet he goes back into the ground a few feet in order to blindly and dumbly rot and disappear forever. It is a terrifying dilemma to be

THE SOLUTION

“The real world is simply too terrible to admit. it tells man that he is a small trembling animal who will someday decay and die.

Culture changes all of this, makes man seem important, vital to the universe.

immortal in some ways”



WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

*“A brave work of electrifying intelligence and passion, optimistic and revolutionary, destined to endure.”
New York Times Book Review*

THE DENIAL OF DEATH ERNEST BECKER

*“An original, creative contribution to a synthesis of this generation’s extensive explorations in psychology and theology.”
The Boston Herald*

*“One of those rare masterpieces that will stimulate your thoughts, your intellectual curiosity, and last but not least, your soul.”
Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, author of On Death and Dying*

INDEPENDENT VOICES

A group of celebrities, including Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, and others, are gathered on a red carpet, smiling and posing for a selfie. The text "EVEN CELEBRITIES NEED GLORY" is overlaid on the image.

EVEN CELEBRITIES NEED GLORY



WHOLE BASIS OF MARKETING

- 2014 eBay reported a 95% rise in dress sales since the royal tour
- The "Patrice Printed Cotton Wrap Dress" sold out in 8 minutes



A photograph of Elon Musk giving a thumbs up. He is wearing a black leather jacket over a black t-shirt with a red and white graphic. In the background, a SpaceX building with the company logo and an American flag is visible. To the left, a rocket is launching, creating a large plume of white smoke. The sky is a clear blue.

“We don’t want to be one of those single planet species, we want to be a multi-planet species,”

GLORY IN ADVENTURE



A 97 YEAR OLD CONTEST?



No desire to be
meaningful just
to eat

Instincts

MOSES REQUEST GRANTED FULLY IN JESUS

James 2:1-4 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

LORD'S SUPPER

Let us all take a moment to reflect on the Lord's Supper in remembrance and in silence.



(Please do not open your Communion Elements until the Preacher indicates to do so)

Philippians 2:4-11 (ESV) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

BENEDICTION

Hebrews 13:20–21 (ESV) Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.