

Next Week Sermon

Who is My Neighbour

Luke 10:25-37

PREACHER

Raymond Raj

26 November, 2023

The Manifold Wisdom of God

Ephesian 3:10

PREACHER

Arnold Lim

3 December, 2023

Characters of Christmas: Zechariah

Luke 1:5-25

PREACHER

John Lee

A close-up photograph of a hand holding several light-colored wooden letters that spell out the word 'WISDOM'. The letters are arranged in a slightly curved line on a dark, textured wooden surface. The lighting is warm, highlighting the grain of the wood and the texture of the hand. The word 'WISDOM' is the central focus of the image.

THE NATURE OF TRUE

James 3:13-4:10

A FAITH THAT WORKS

**Genuine
Stability**
James 1

**Genuine
Love**
James 2-3:11

**Genuine
Humility**
James 3:12-5:6

**Genuine
Patience**
James 5:7-20



GENUINE HUMILITY STEMS FROM WISDOM

James 3:13-15 (ESV) Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meeekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

Genuine Faith

Fake Faith

Genuine Wisdom

Fake Wisdom

THE NATURE OF TRUE WISDOM

1. What is wisdom and why it is important
2. What are the two kinds of wisdom and their characteristics
3. How do we get wisdom from above

WISDOM IS THE THINKING BEHIND THE CONDUCT



James 3:13-15 (ESV) Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

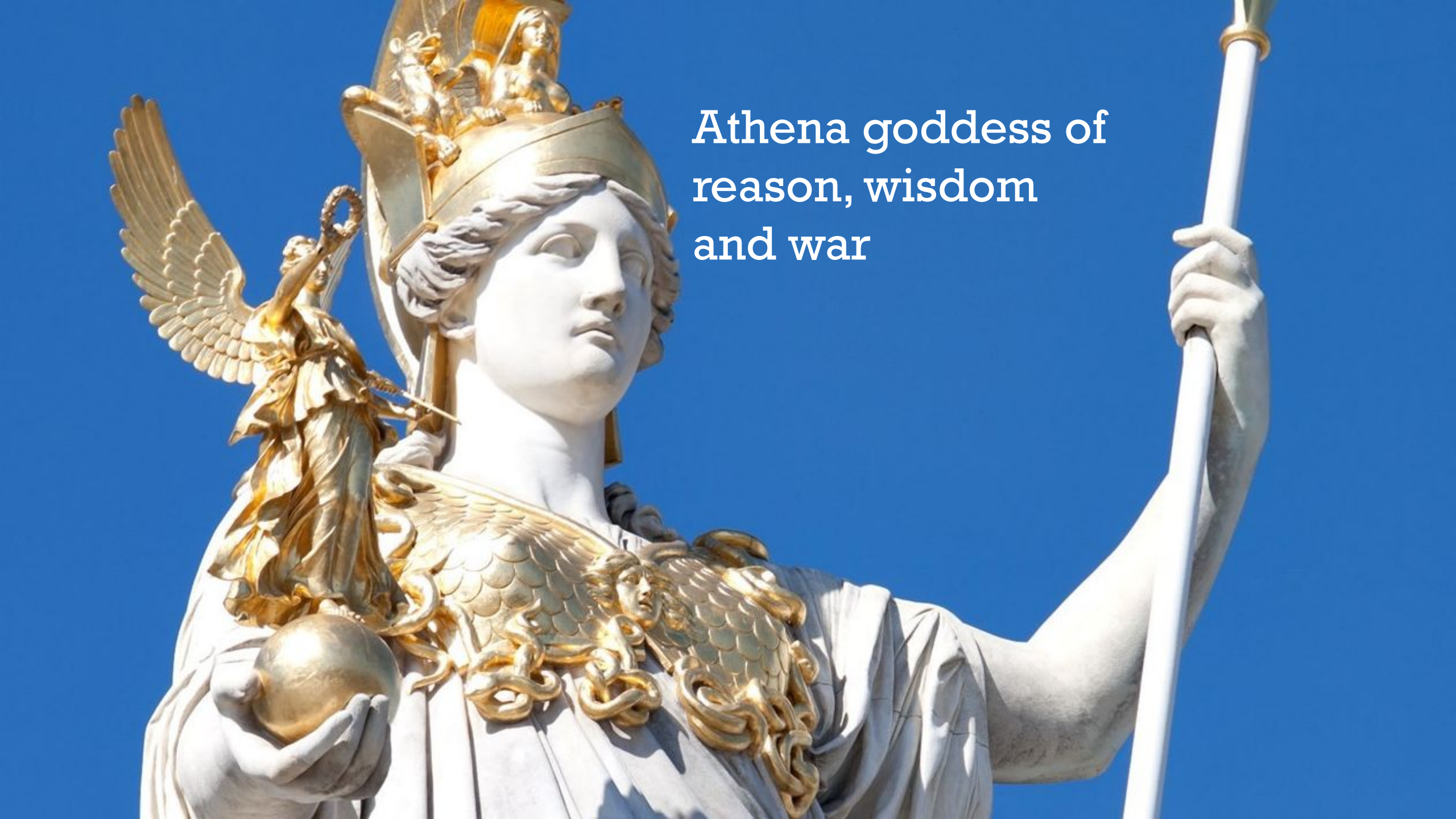
Gilgamesh Tablets

library of an Assyrian
king, Assur Banipal,

2800 -2500 BC

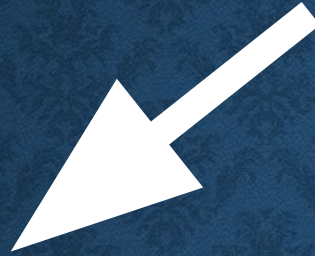
King of Uruk
who knew
the ways,
was wise in
all things





Athena goddess of
reason, wisdom
and war

PHILOSOPHY



Phileo

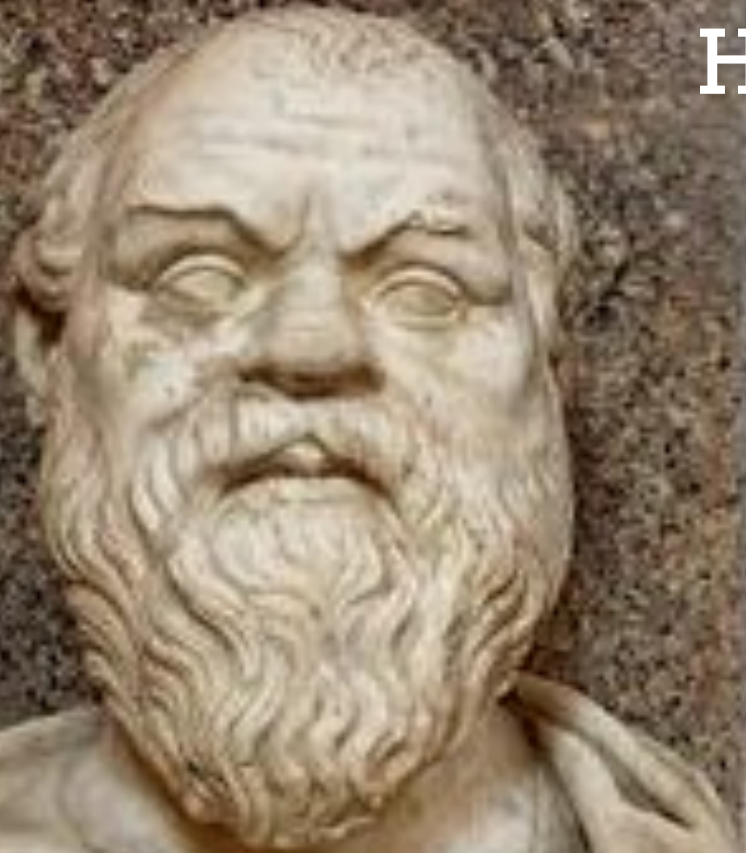
Sophy



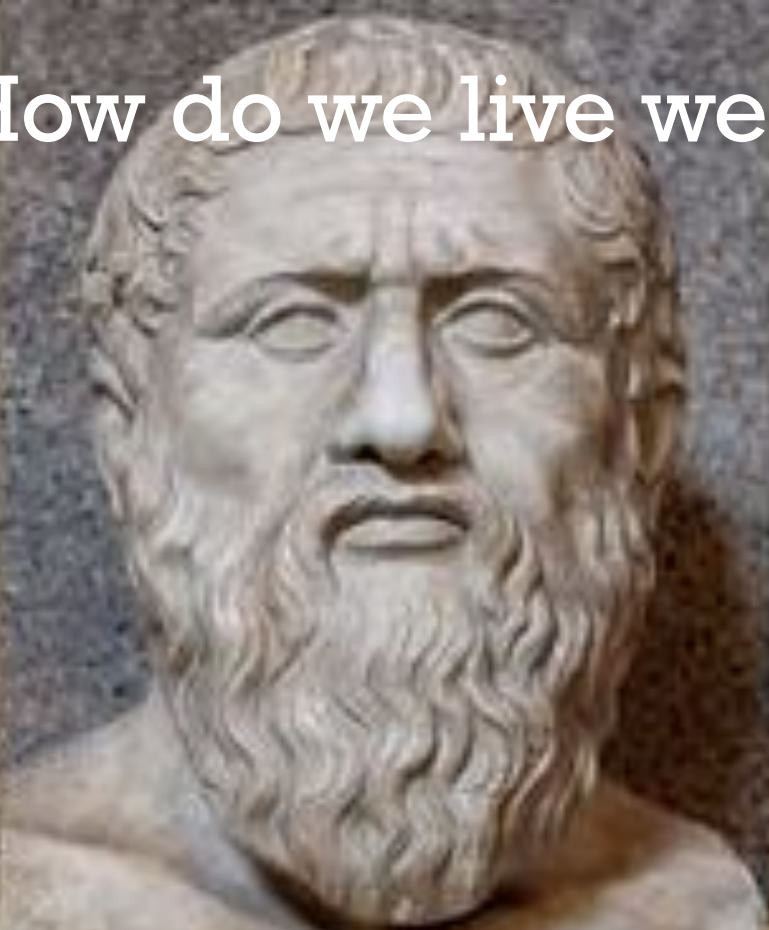
Love of

Wisdom

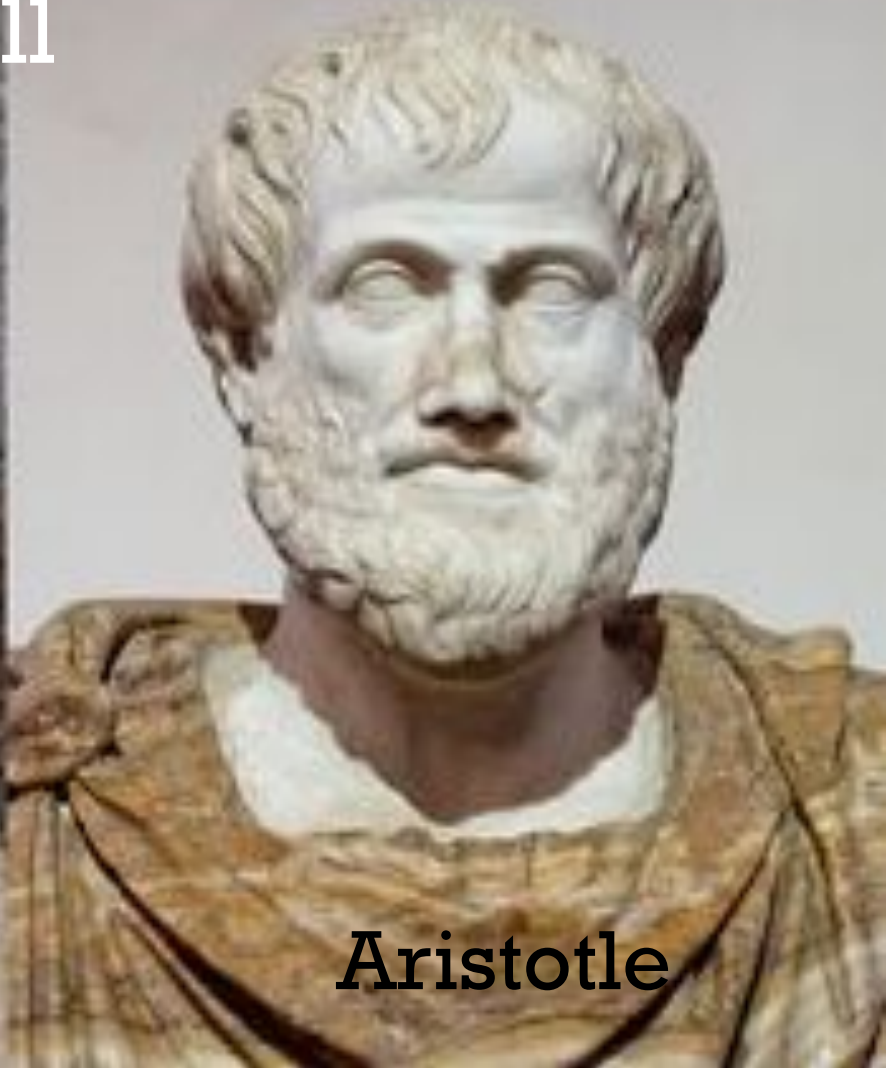
How do we live well



Socrates



Plato



Aristotle

*the truth about the world and our place within it and to find thereb
guidance for how we are to live.*



WISDOM IS VALUABLE

Proverbs 8:10-11 Take my instruction instead of silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold,

11 for wisdom is better than jewels,

and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

WISDOM GIVES SUCCESSFUL LIVING



Proverbs 8:14-18 (ESV) I have counsel and sound wisdom; I have insight; I have strength.

15 By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just;

16 by me princes rule, and nobles, all who govern justly. 17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

18 Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness.



KING SOLOMON'S REQUEST

1 Kings 3:9 (ESV) Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

A woodcut-style illustration of a bearded man, likely a king or a wise man, sitting on a throne. He is wearing a crown and a red robe. He has a long, white beard and is holding a scroll in his left hand. The background is a textured, golden-brown wall. The text "WISDOM IS A GIFT" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

WISDOM IS A GIFT



FAILED STATES

- Yemen.
- Somalia.
- South Sudan.
- Syria.



PERSONAL WISDOM







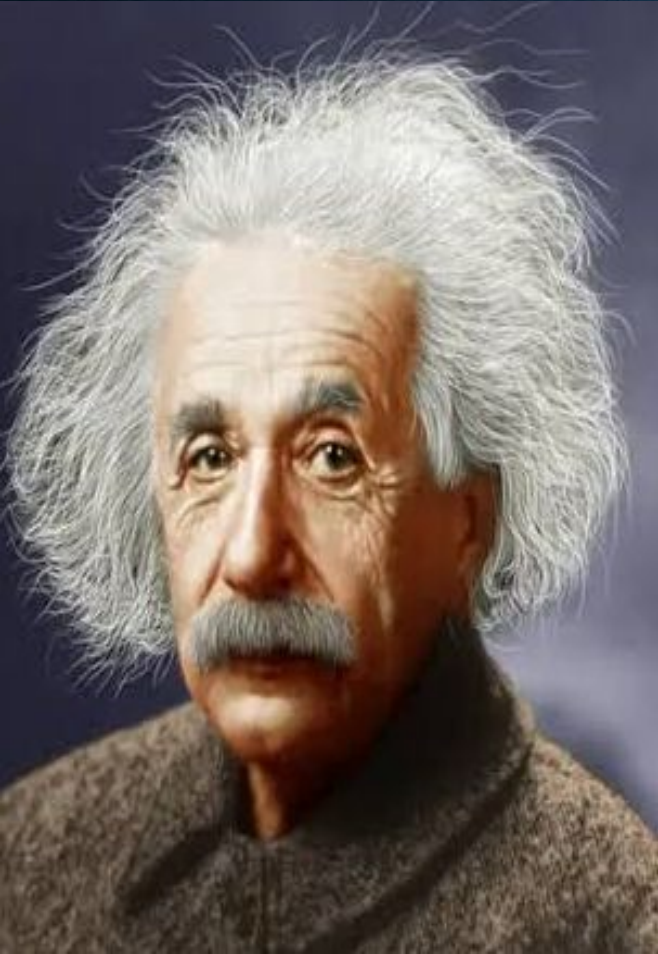
A black and white portrait of a young man with short, dark hair, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored collared shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

WILLIAM SILAS

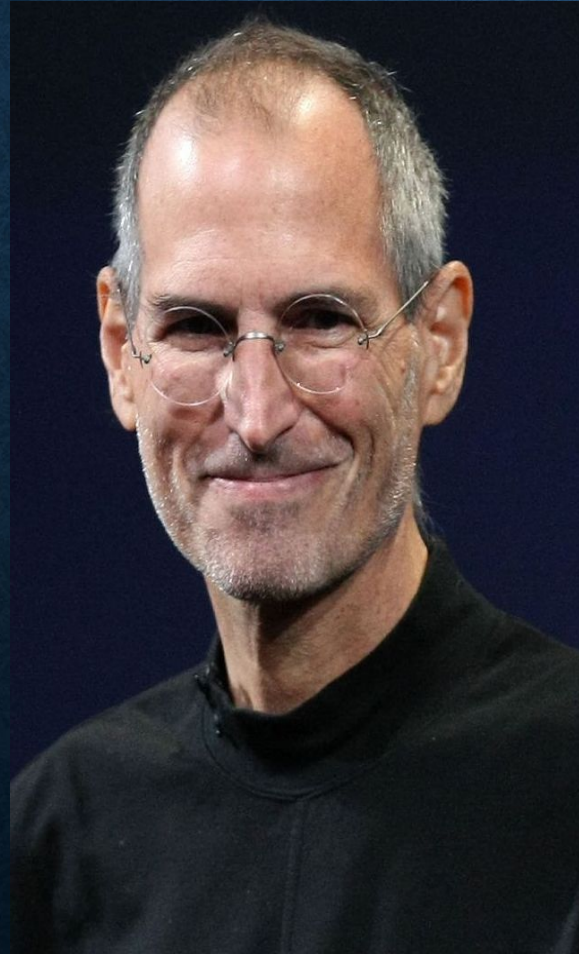
IQ 250-300

IQ

160



160



160



155



Wisdom is shown by how you live

Agathos

Good

Kalos

Beautiful

James 3:13-15 (ESV) Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

**MOST
INFLUENTIAL
MEN IN HISTORY**

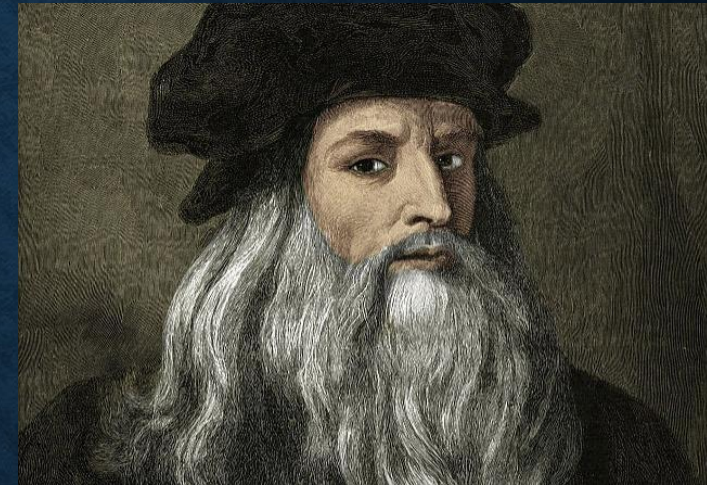


Mother Teresa

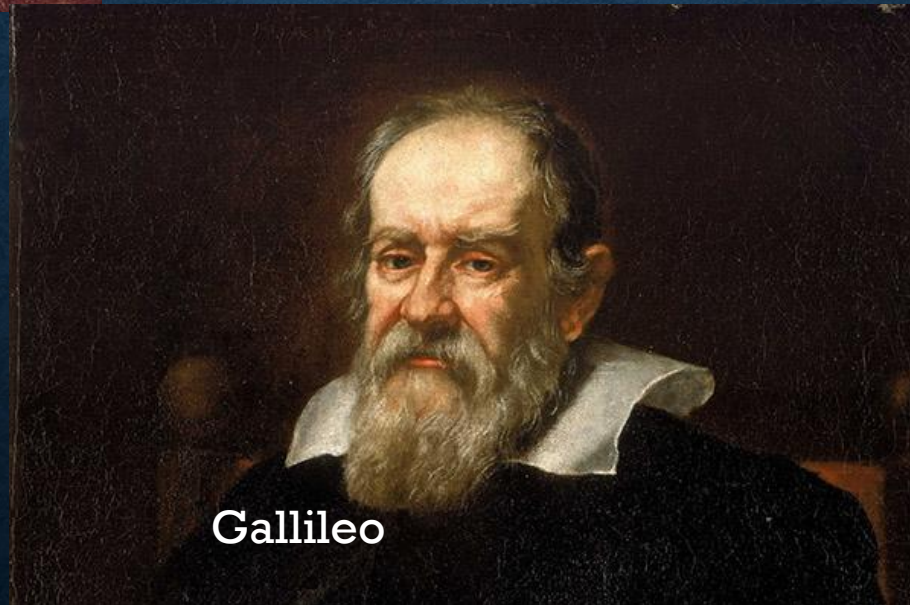
Beautiful lives



Isaac Newton



Leonardo-Davinci



Galileo

**MOST
INFLUENTIAL
MEN IN HISTORY**



Putin



Stalin



Mao

Ugly Lives



Polpot



WISDOM IS MORE THAN KNOWLEDGE

Proverbs 8:12 (ESV) I, wisdom, dwell with
prudence,
and I find knowledge and discretion.

Factual Knowledge

Necessary
Resolve



Wisdom



Situational
Insight





an exercise in scanning and surveying, taking the measure of the defense, 83% OF THE TIME FOUND OFFENDING BUT THE STROLLING AND DAWDLING AND LOOKING MILDLY UNINTERESTED. calculating when and how opportunities might be seized. “After five, ten minutes, he’ll have a map in his eyes and in his brain,”

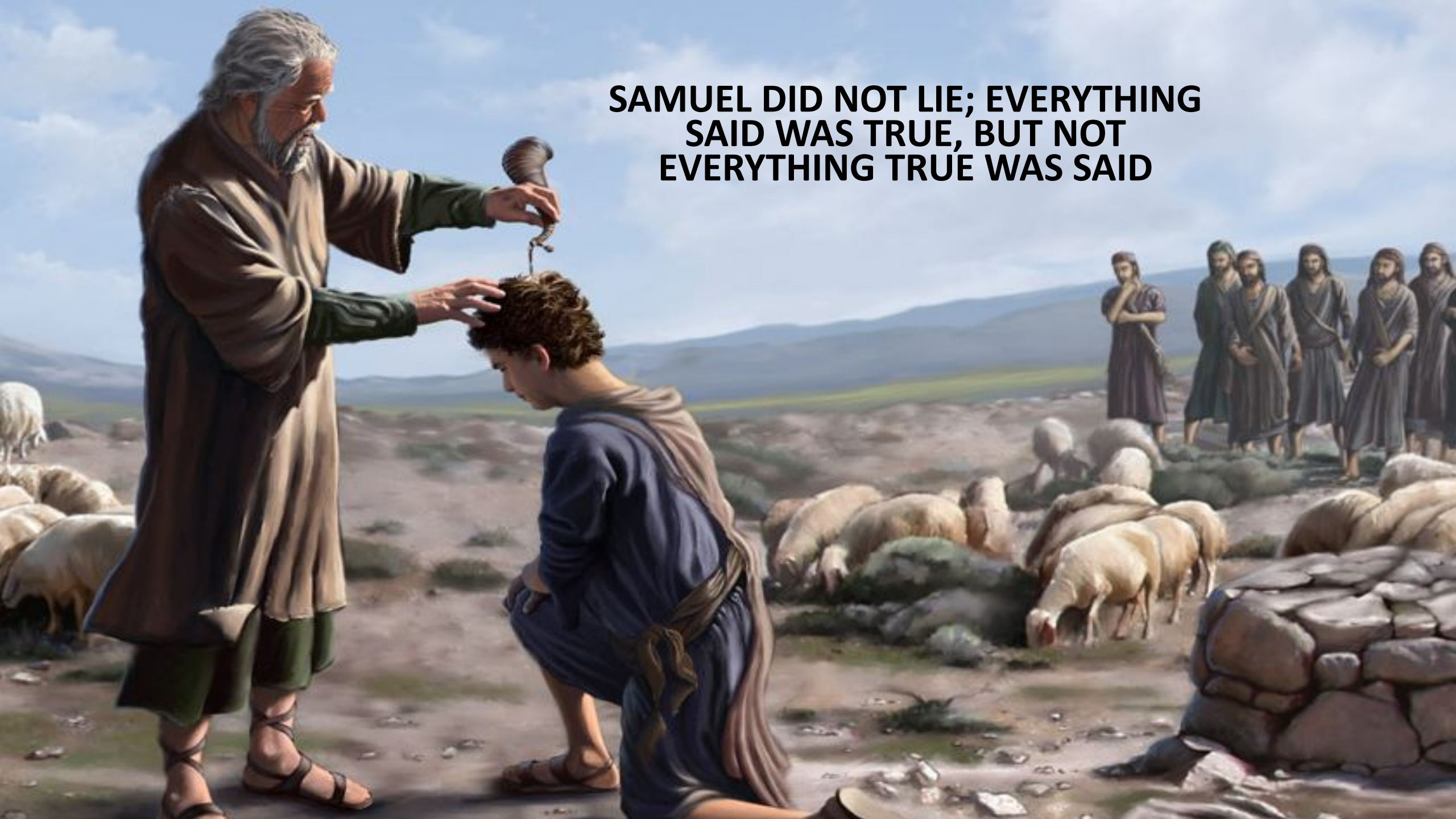


THE DILEMMA



1 Samuel 16: 2 And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.”

**SAMUEL DID NOT LIE; EVERYTHING
SAID WAS TRUE, BUT NOT
EVERYTHING TRUE WAS SAID**



Factual Knowledge

Necessary
Resolve

Wisdom

Situational
Insight



Banda Aceh

ACEH

Medan

NORTH SUMATRA

RIAU

PERLIS

KEDAH

PENANG

PERAK

TERENGGANU

Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur

MALACCA

JOHOR

Singapore

Simeulu



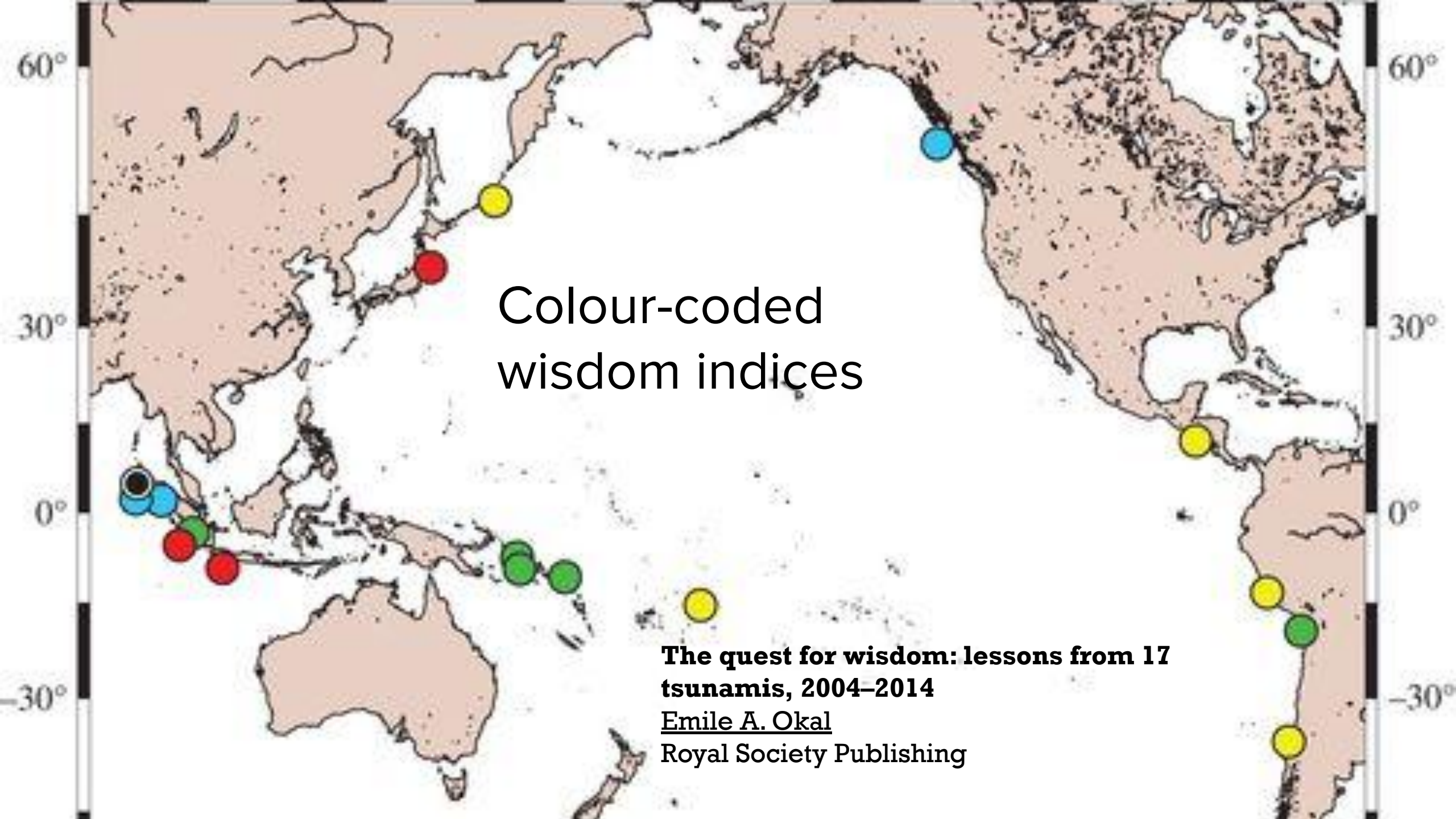
Sulawesi 2018 Earthquake and Tsunami

Palu



Kaili tribe in Palu





Colour-coded wisdom indices

**The quest for wisdom: lessons from 17
tsunamis, 2004–2014**

Emile A. Okal

Royal Society Publishing

THE NATURE OF TRUE WISDOM

1. What is wisdom and why it is important
2. What are the two kinds of wisdom and their characteristics
3. How do we get wisdom from above



STANFORD CENTER FOR AI IN MEDICINE AND IMAGING


- 99.1 sensitivity rate for AI on abnormal radiographs in comparison to a 72.3 percent sensitivity for radiologist reports

AI DRONE SWARMS




WORLDLY WISDOM

James 3:13-15 (ESV) Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but **is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.**



where human feeling
and human reason reign
supreme



Earth bound fails
to consider God
and His will



WORLDLY WISDOM IS SUBTLE

James 3:13-15 (ESV) Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.



CONTEXT

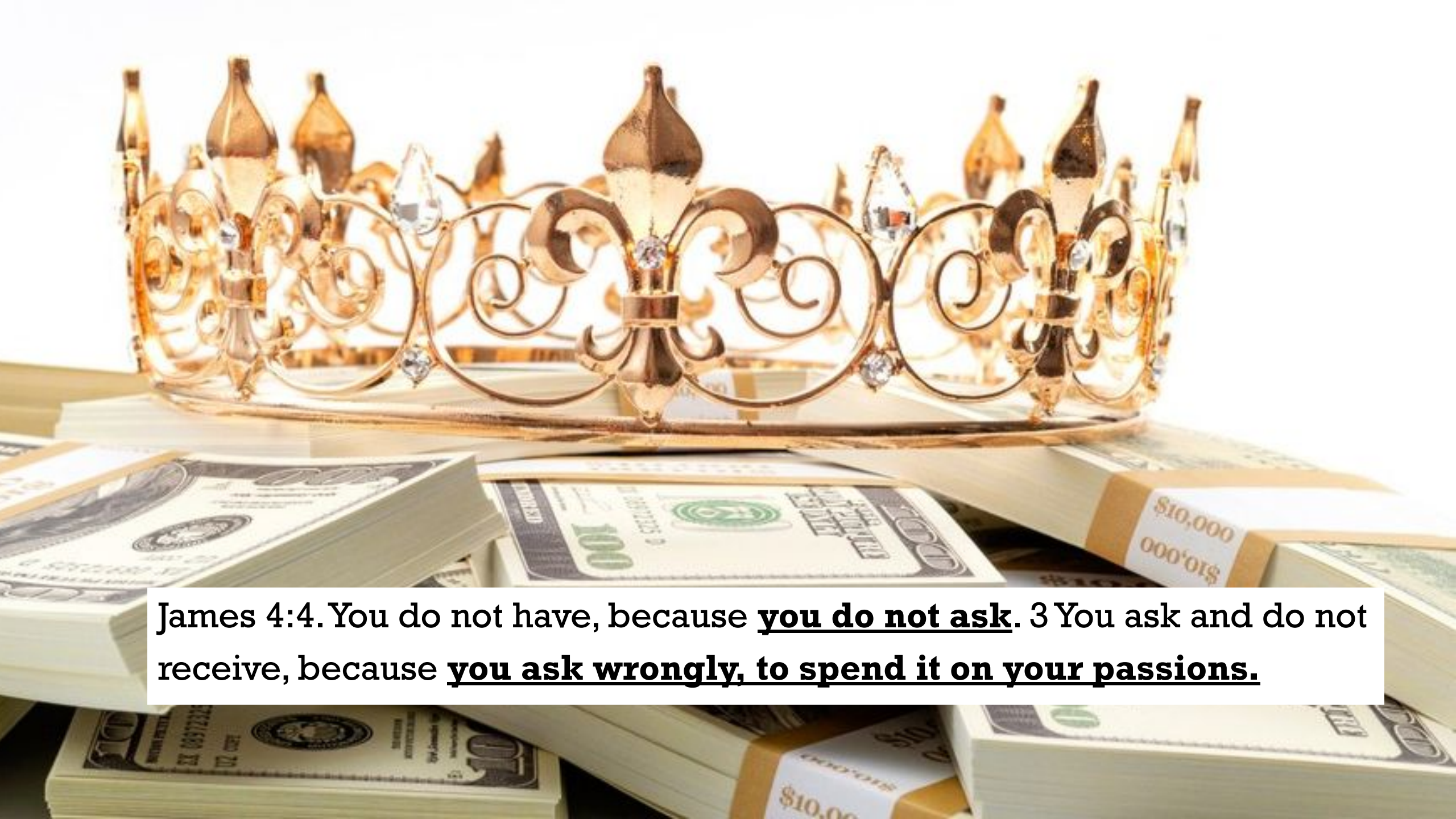
James 3:1 (ESV) Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

GODLY WISDOM

James 3:17 (ESV) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere

EARTHLY WISDOM

James 4:1-4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.



James 4:4. You do not have, because **you do not ask**. 3 You ask and do not receive, because **you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions**.

CENTRAL MOTIVE OF EARTHLY WISDOM

James 3:13-15 (ESV) Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

LOVE OF SELF--ADULTERY



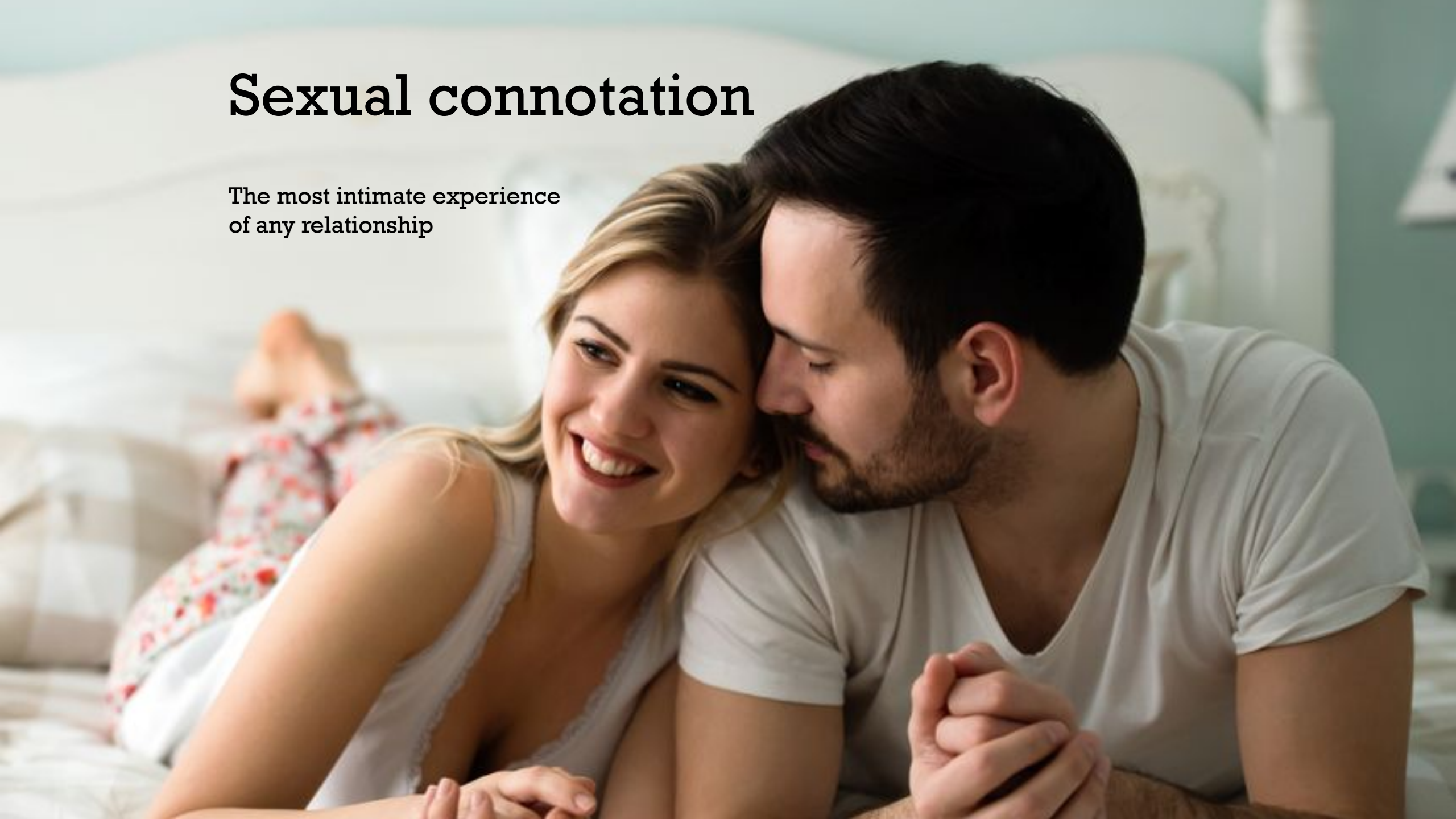
James 4:4-6 (ESV) You **adulterous** people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a **friend of the world** makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns **jealously** over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

A man and a woman are embracing each other. The man is wearing a grey t-shirt and has his arms around the woman. The woman is wearing a white sleeveless top and has a surprised expression. To the right, another woman with long dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is kissing the man on the cheek. The background is a white brick wall with a wooden shelf.

**GIVEN HEART TO
SOMEONE ELSE**

Sexual connotation

The most intimate experience
of any relationship





LANGUAGE OF MARITAL INTIMACY

Ezekiel 16:8 When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.



LANGUAGE OF BETRAYAL

Ezekiel 16:14-15 And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord GOD.

15 “But you trusted in your beauty and played the whore because of your renown and lavished your whorings on any passerby; your beauty became his.





ZHANG YUQI
2014

Wang
Quanan



Proverbs 7:1-3 (ESV) My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; 2 keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; 3 bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.





Proverbs 7:22-23 (ESV) All at once he follows her,
as an ox goes to the slaughter,
or as a stag is caught fast
23 till an arrow pierces its liver;
as a bird rushes into a snare;
he does not know that it will cost him his life.



FEAR AND WISDOM

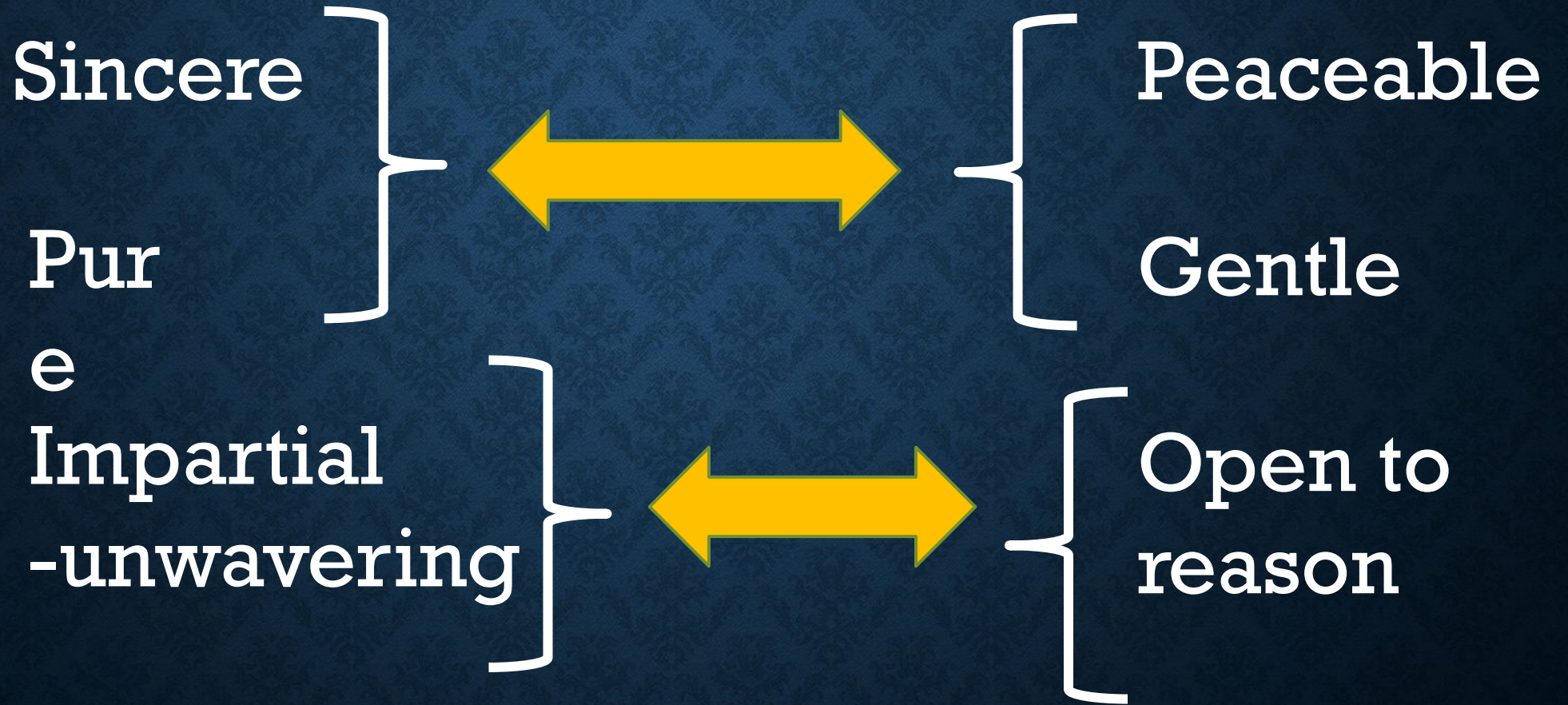
Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Foundation of wisdom

GODLY WISDOM IS SEEN IN COMMUNITY

James 3:17-18 (ESV) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

WISDOM IS THE BALANCE



NECESSARY FIGHTS



Titus 1:9 (ESV) He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

NECESSARY FIGHTS



Titus 1:10-13 (ESV) For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. 11 They must be silenced,

Believers committed to living peacefully by believing that God will provide for them so they reject self interest
This harmonious atmosphere will foster the church members of live righteous lives and do righteous deeds-spiritual maturity



HARVEST OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

THE NATURE OF TRUE WISDOM

1. What is wisdom and why it is important
2. What are the two kinds of wisdom and their characteristics
3. How do we get wisdom from above

SET YOUR HEART RIGHT

YOU HAVE TO BE CONVINCED YOU NEED IT GENUINE REPENTANCE

James 4:7-10 (ESV) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded

9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

TRUE REPENTANCE HAS AN EMOTIONAL COMPONENT



James 4:7-10 (ESV) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded

9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

BECOME A FOOL



KING GILGAMESH

"Life, which you look for, you will never find. For when the gods created man, they let death be his share, and life withheld in their own hands".

BECOME A FOOL

1 Corinthians 1:18-19 (ESV) For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”



HOW TO GET GOD'S WISDOM: BECOME A FOOL

1 Corinthians 1:22-25 (ESV) For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach **Christ crucified**, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For **the foolishness of God** is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

SIGNS N WONDER



WONDERS OF SCIENCE





A close-up photograph of a marble statue of the philosopher Plato. The statue is shown from the chest up, facing slightly to the right. It has a full, curly beard and hair, and is wearing a draped garment. The background is a clear, light blue sky. The text "PLATO SOURCE OF WISDOM HIS OWN SOUL" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

**PLATO SOURCE OF
WISDOM HIS OWN SOUL**





GODLY WISDOM IS GOSPEL WISDOM

Colossians 2:2b to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOSPEL WISDOM

Resurrection/forward-back.



Incarnation/upside-down



Atonement/inside-out



GOSPEL WISDOM -INSIDE OUT -RESPONSE TO GRACE



James 4:5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

IT IS NOT WHAT YOU DO IT IS HOW YOU RESPOND

The Gospel Gun

1 Corinthians 13:1-2 (ESV) 1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, **I am nothing**

Ritualized Religion



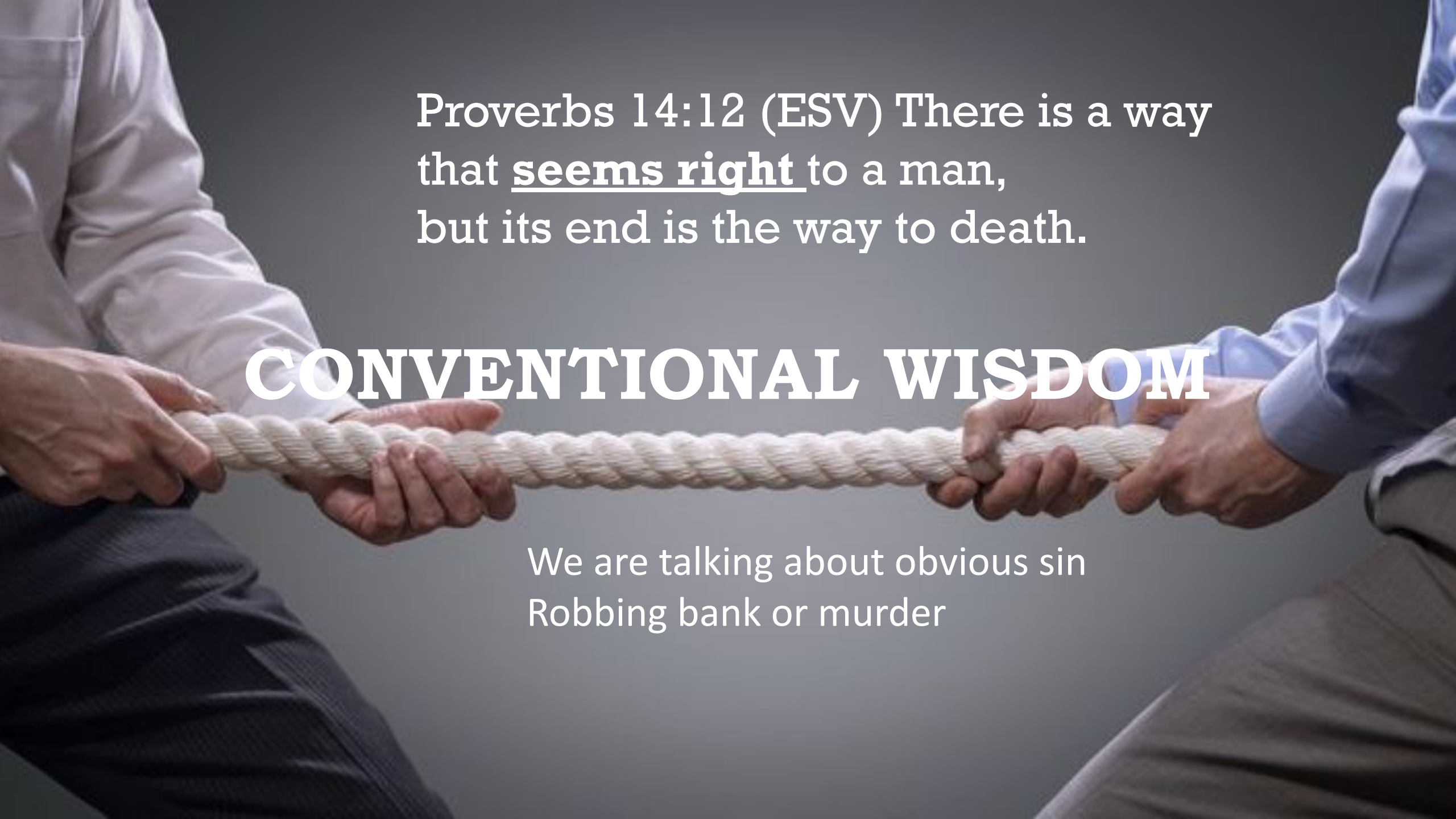
GOSPEL WISDOM –UPSIDE DOWN

James 3:14 (ESV) But if you have bitter jealousy and **selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not **boast** and be false to the truth

James 4:7-10 (ESV) **Submit** yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be **wretched and mourn and weep.** Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 **Humble yourselves** before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

**HOW TO GET GOD'S
WISDOM -BECOME
A FOOL**



A photograph showing two men in business attire (white and blue shirts) pulling on a thick, white rope. The rope is stretched horizontally across the center of the frame. The background is a dark, solid color.


Proverbs 14:12 (ESV) There is a way
that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way to death.

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

We are talking about obvious sin
Robbing bank or murder



John 18:36-37 (ESV) Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, **my servants would have been fighting**, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” 37 Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to **bear witness to the truth.** Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.



note written in red and a
cigarette box with two bullets



Matthew 16:16-18 (ESV) You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.



PETER IS USING CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

Matthew 16:22-23 (ESV) And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.”

Prov 14: 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM IS NOT FROM GOD

Matthew 16:23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

James 3:15 (ESV) This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

THE 7 MOUNTAIN MANDATE:

SHIFTING CULTURE BY LOVING THE 7 CITIES WELL

THE CHURCH

FAMILY

BUSINESS

EDUCATION

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SCIENCE & MEDICINE

GOVERNMENT



LIFE IS JUDGED ON DIFFERENT METRIC

James 3:17-18 (ESV) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



Resurrection/forward-back.

James 4:10 Humble
yourselves before the
Lord, and he will exalt you.

OUR VIEW OF THE WORLD



John 19:10-11 (ESV) So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” 11 Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.



2 Timothy 4:7-8 (ESV) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.