



O Lord, It's Hard To Be Humble!

— The Gospel of Luke 18:9-14 —



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE

It's Hard To Be Humble

— Mac Davis, 1980 —



**O Lord, it's hard
to be humble
When you're perfect
in every way
I can't wait to look
in the mirror
'Cause I get better
looking each day**



**To know me is
to love me
I must be a
hell of a man
O Lord, it's hard
to be humble
But I'm doin'
the best that I can**



**...learn from me,
for I am gentle
and humble in
heart, and you
will find rest
for your souls.**

Jesus of Nazareth

— The Gospel of Matthew 11:29 —





**If God wants to make
me more like Jesus,
He can't do that
without dealing with
my pride, and working
a deep humility
within me.**

**Do you ever
pray for
humility?**






O Lord, It's Hard To Be Humble!

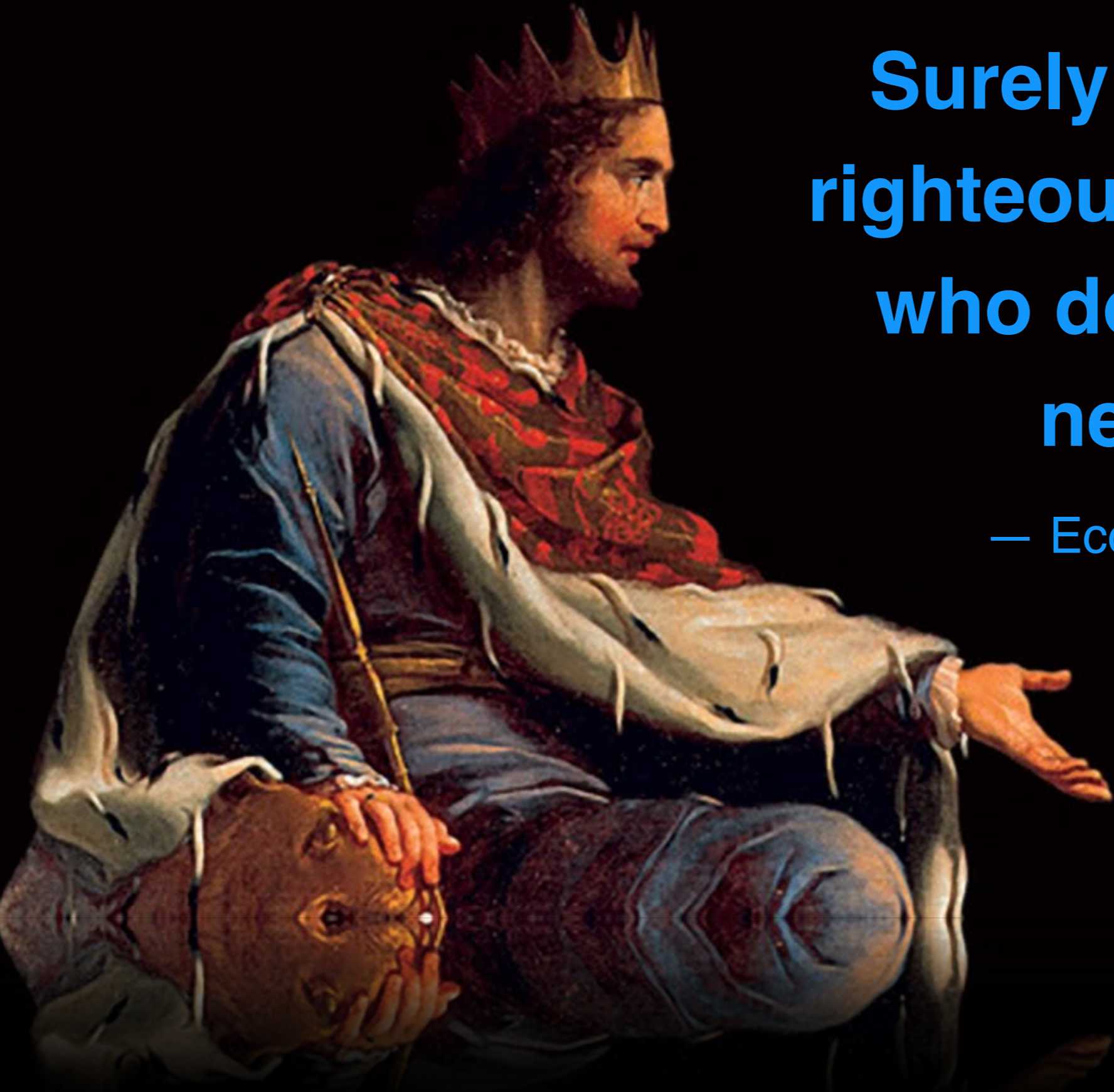
— The Gospel of Luke 18:9-14 —

The Gospel of Luke 18:9-14

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and treated others with contempt....

A man with dark, wavy hair, a full beard, and round glasses is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a white, long-sleeved button-down shirt. He has a slight, smug expression on his face, with his eyes partially closed and a small smile. He is making an 'L' hand gesture with both hands, with his index and middle fingers extended upwards and his thumb pointing to the left. The background is a solid, bright blue color.

**“trusted in themselves
that they were righteous”**



**Surely there is not a
righteous man on earth
who does good and
never sins.**

— Ecclesiastes 7:20 —

**“treated others
with contempt”**



**“treated others
with contempt”**



**“looked down on
everyone else”**







If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.

— Luke 7:37 —

The Gospel of Luke 18:9-14

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**.

KINGDOM,
GRACE,
JUDGMENT



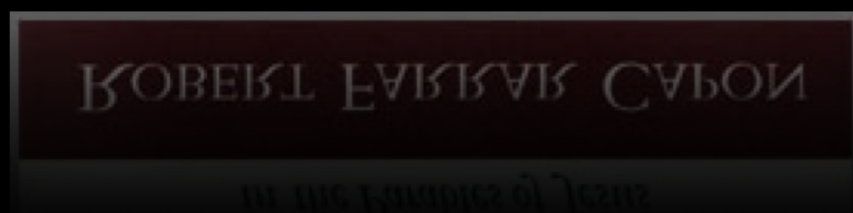
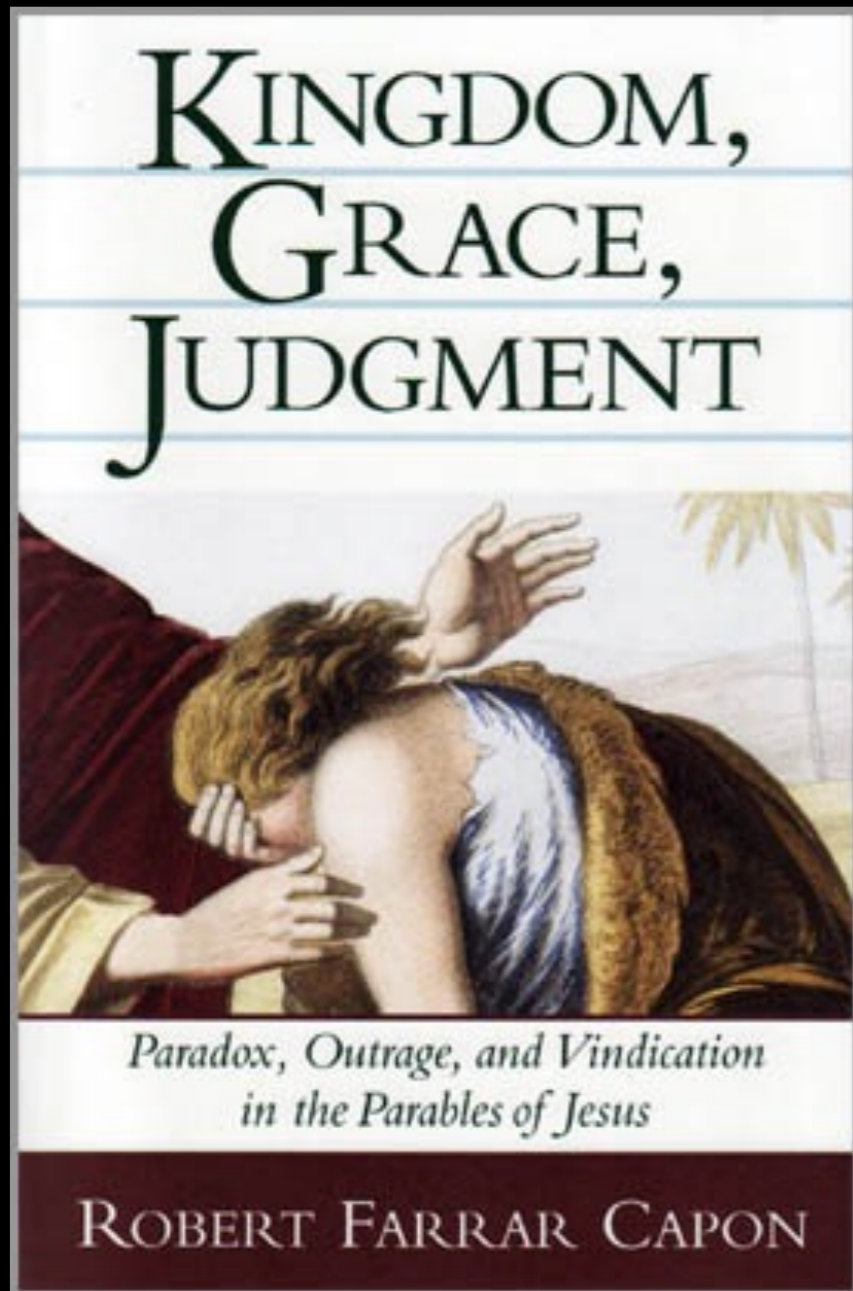
*Paradox, Outrage, and Vindication
in the Parables of Jesus*

ROBERT FARRAR CAPON

**...the worst kind of crook:
a legal one, a big operator,
a mafia-style enforcer
working for the Roman
government on a nifty
franchise that lets him
collect—from his fellow
Jews, mind you,**

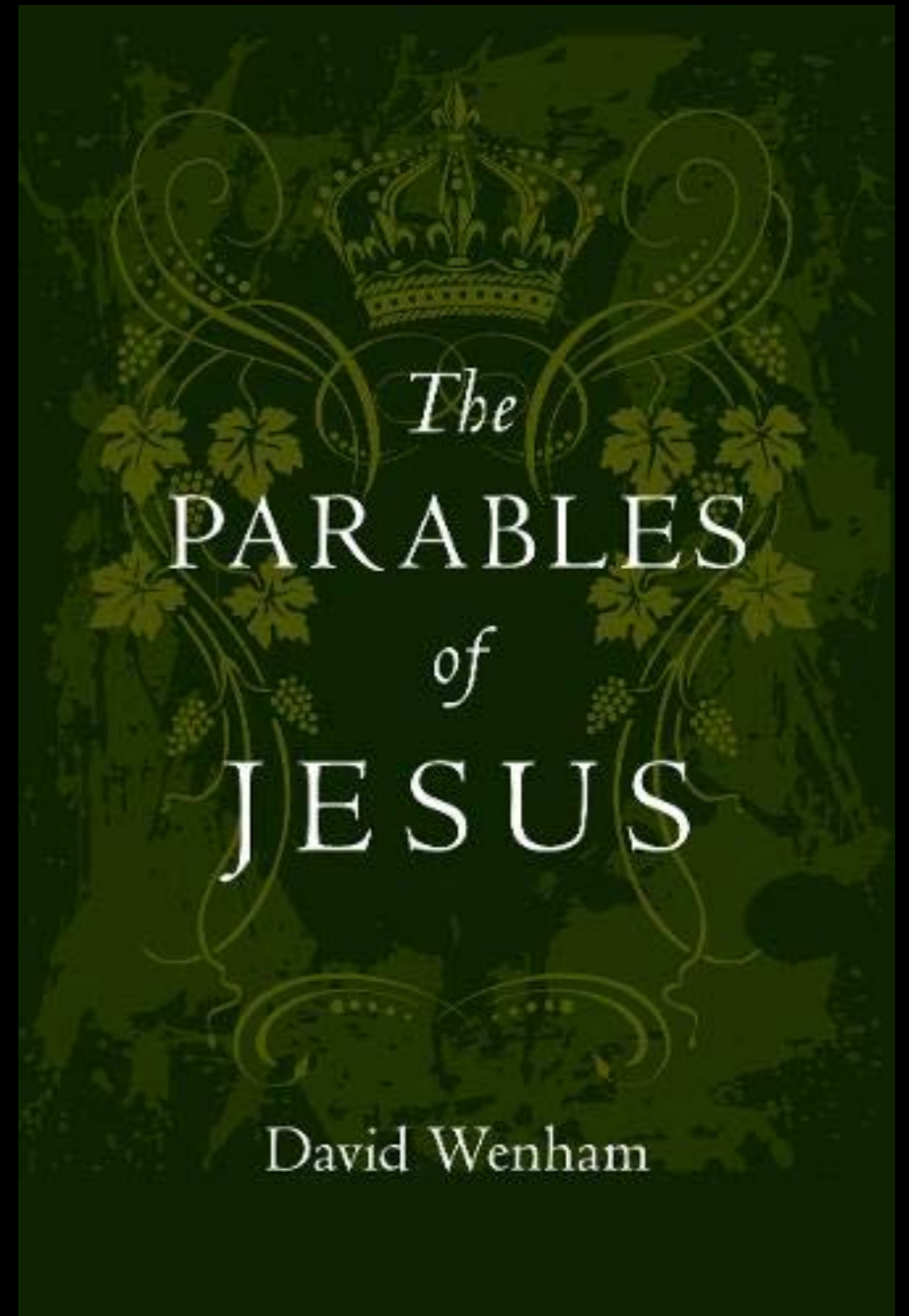
ROBERT FARRAR CAPON

in the Parables of Jesus



from the people whom the Romans might have trouble finding, but whose whereabouts he knows and whose language he speaks—all the money he can bleed out of them, provided he pays the authorities an agreed flat fee.

**Jesus in his parable
compares a represent-
ative of the most
religious people in
society with a
representative of the
most irreligious.**



The Gospel of Luke 18:9-14

**12 The Pharisee, standing by himself,
prayed thus:**



“He prayed to / towards himself”

**When you pray,
do not be like the
hypocrites, for
they love to pray
standing in the
synagogues...to
be seen by men.**



— Jesus of Nazareth —
The Gospel of Matthew 6:5; 23:5

**Everything they do is done
to be seen by people.**

The Gospel of Luke 18:9-14

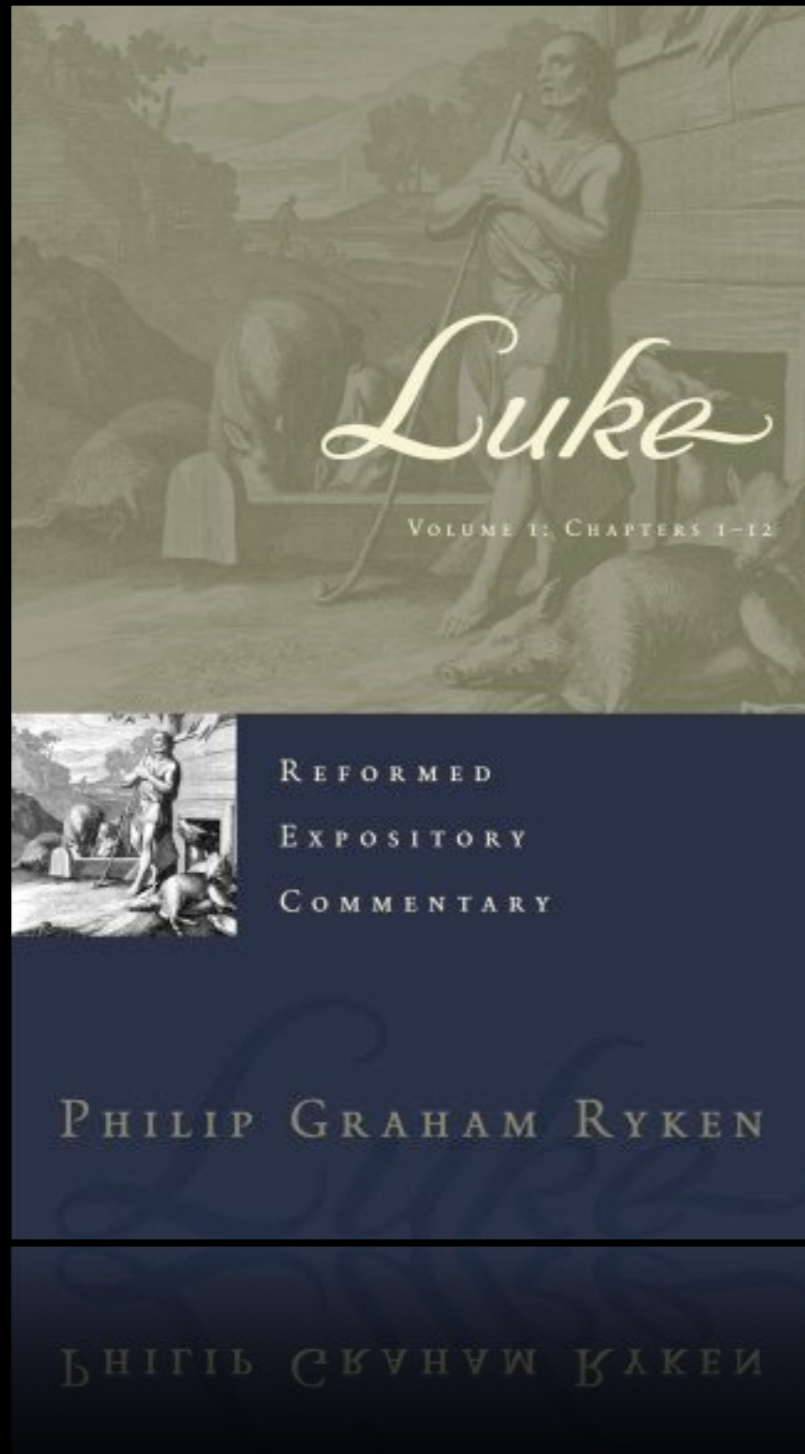
12 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: **“God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.”**

**“I thank you
I am not
like other
people!”**



The Gospel of Luke 18:9-14

12 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: “God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.”



For the Pharisee, prayer was just another way of reminding himself of what a great guy he was. He did not actually ask God for anything or offer God any praise, but simply reveled in his own sense of superiority.

**Aren't you glad
your NOT like
the Pharisee?**



**I'm glad I'm NOT
like _____.**



What are
the ways you
revel in your
own sense of
superiority



The Gospel of Luke 18:9-14

13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”

The Gospel of Luke 18:9-14

13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, **“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”**



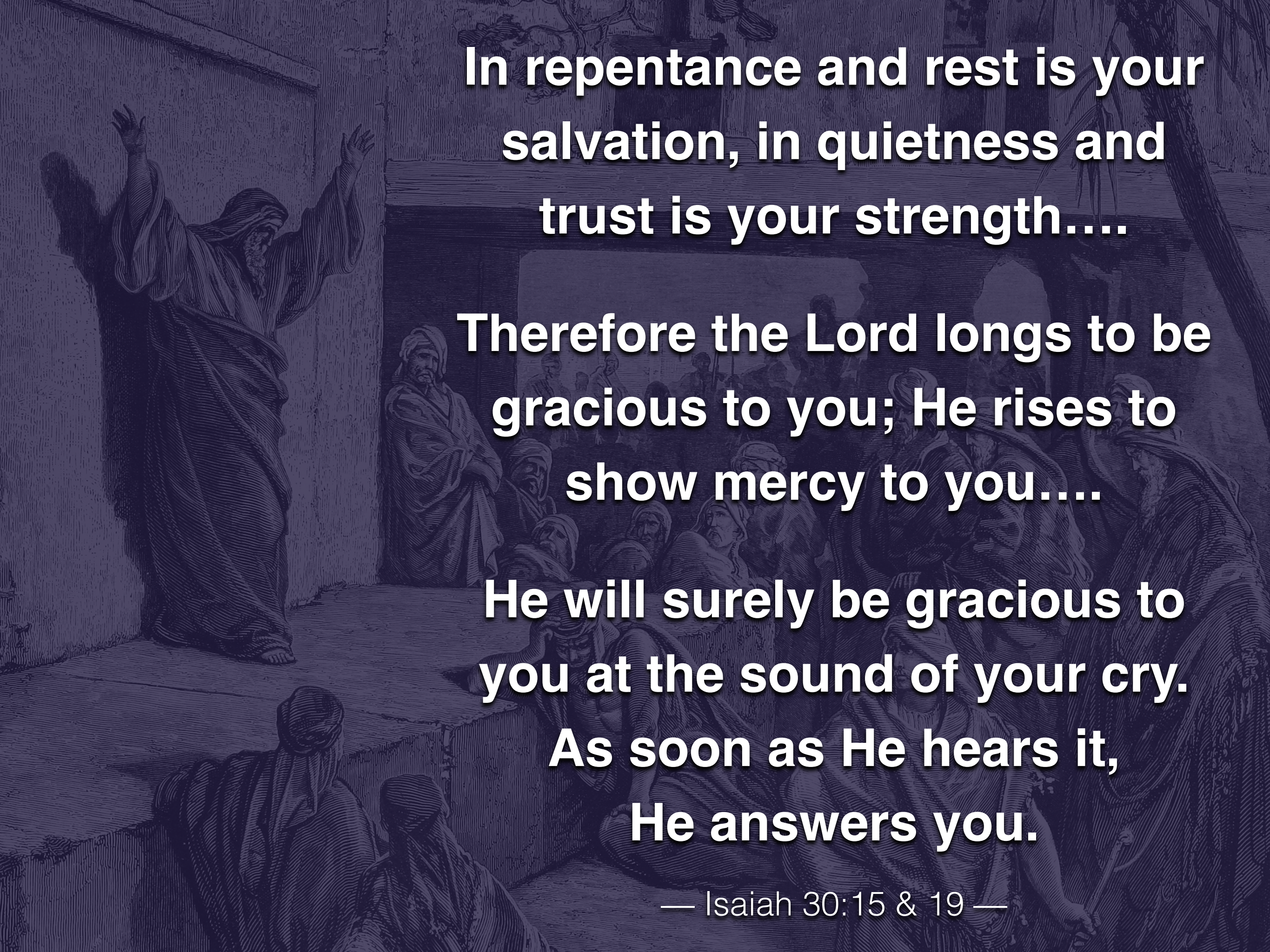
Greek: **“the”**



“the sinner”



**“God, be merciful
to me a sinner”
may be the best
prayer you could
ever pray.**




**In repentance and rest is your
salvation, in quietness and
trust is your strength....**

**Therefore the Lord longs to be
gracious to you; He rises to
show mercy to you....**

**He will surely be gracious to
you at the sound of your cry.**

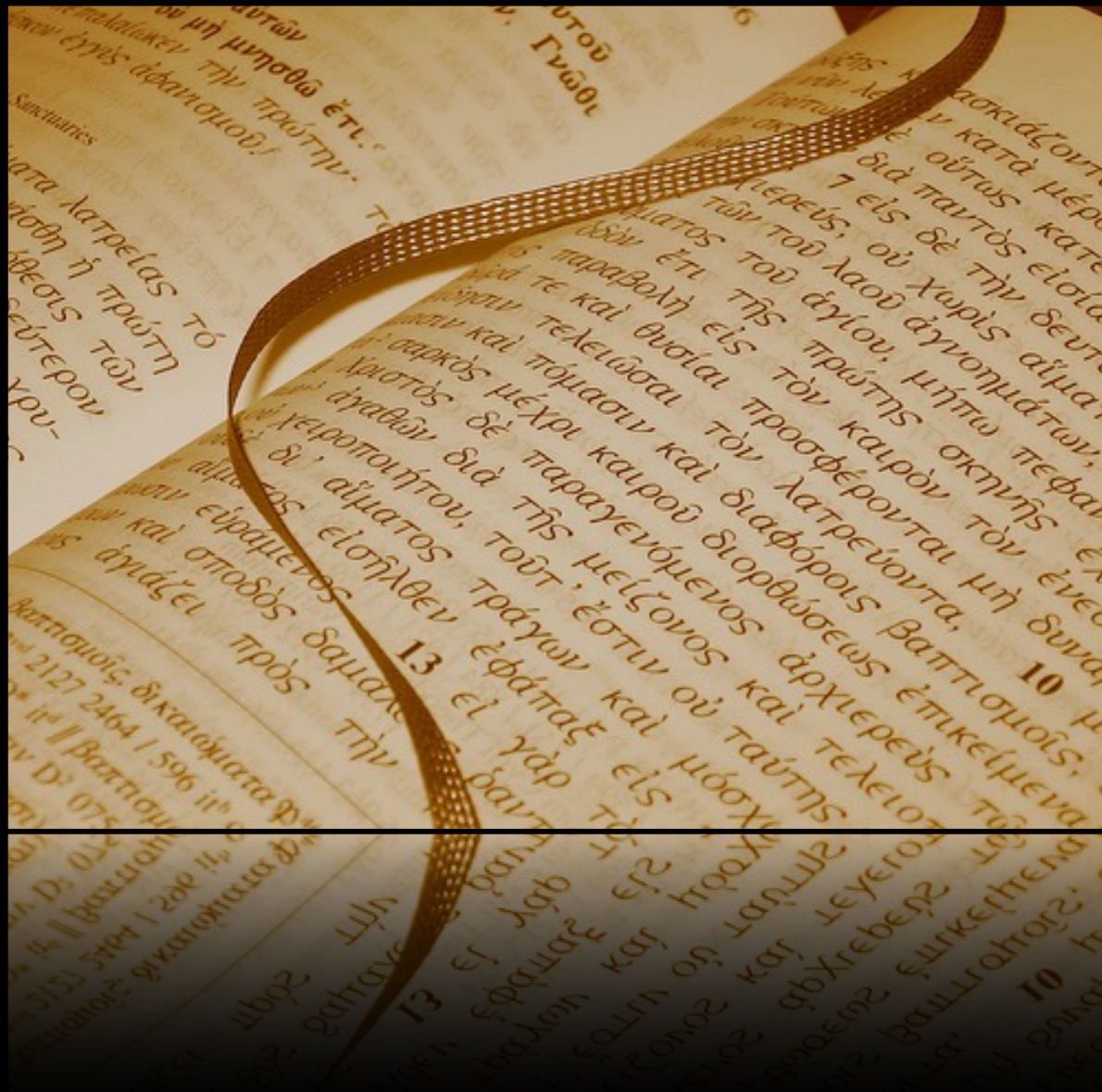
**As soon as He hears it,
He answers you.**

— Isaiah 30:15 & 19 —



**The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in
steadfast love. The Lord is good to all,
and His mercy is over all He has made.**

— Psalm 145:8-9 —



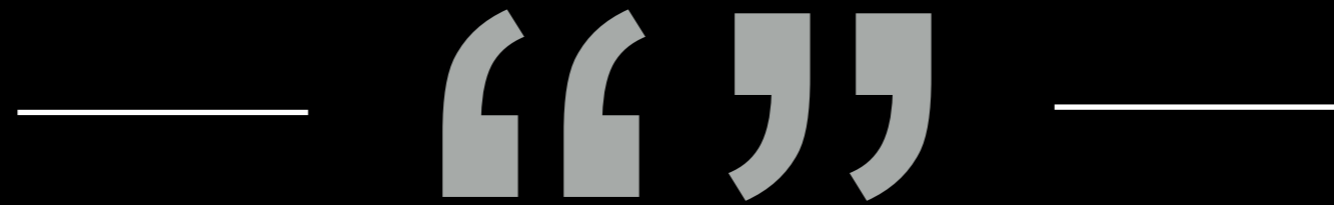
**I have not come
to call the
righteous but
sinners to
repentance.**

Jesus of Nazareth
—The Gospel of Luke 5:32—



The Gospel of Luke 18:9-14

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house **justified**, rather than the other.



**...Him who justifies
the ungodly....**

The Apostle Paul
— Romans 4:5 —

What is justification?

Justification is an act of God's free grace in which he pardons all our sins and accepts us as righteous in his sight because of the righteousness of Christ given to us and received by faith alone.

The Gospel of Luke 18:9-14

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other.

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

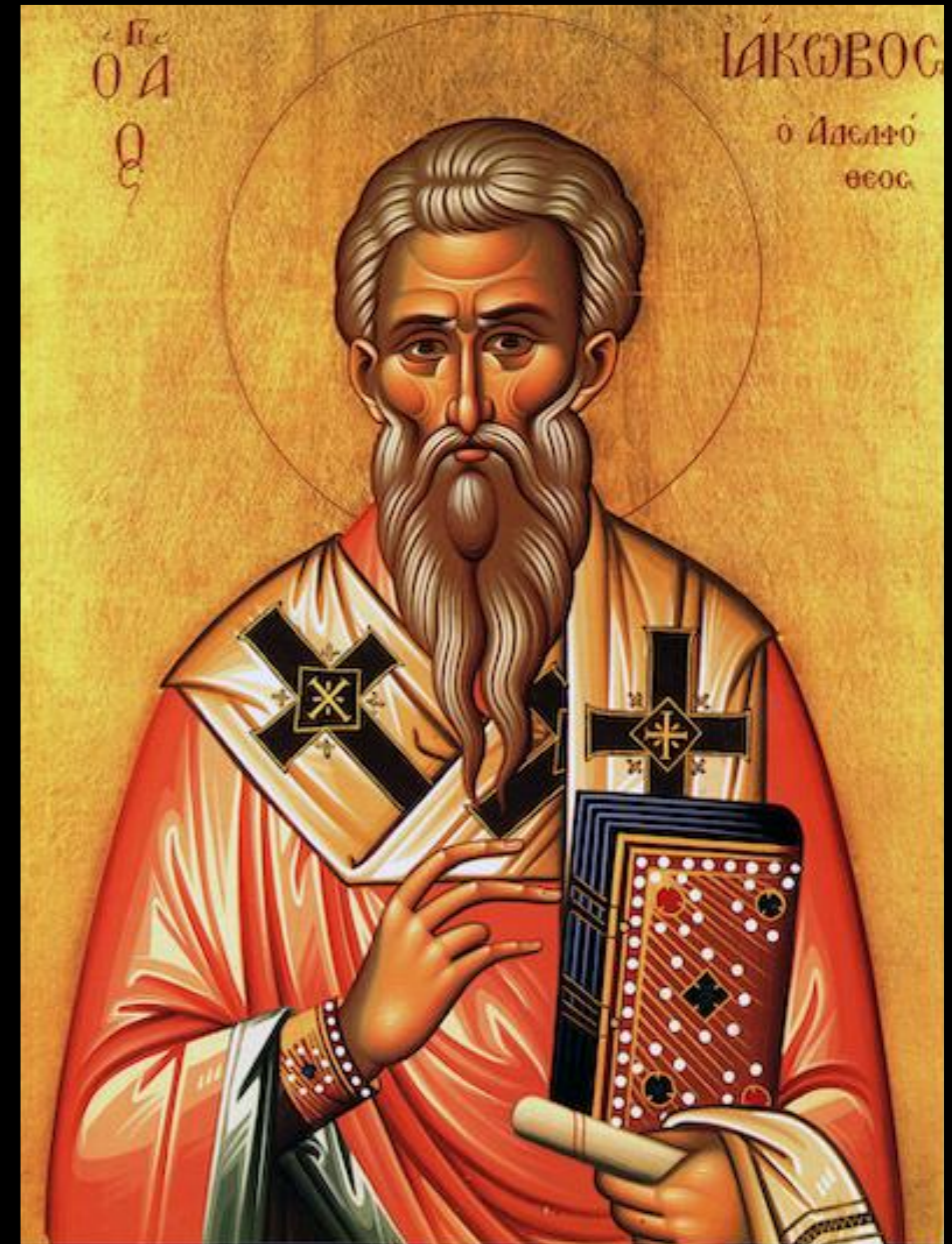
**Everyone who exalts himself
will be humbled, but
the one who humbles himself
will be exalted.**

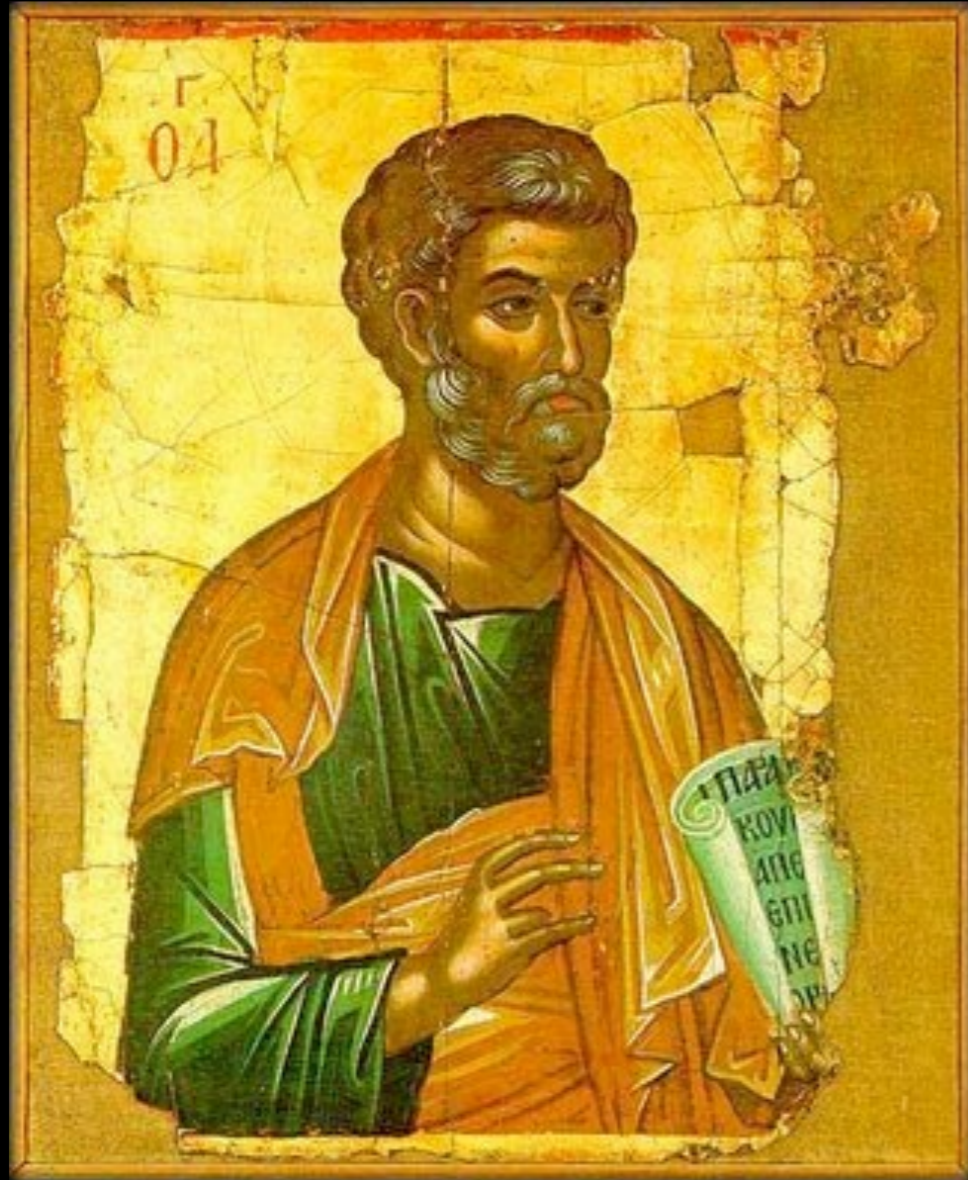
**Do you ever
pray for
humility?**



**Humble yourselves
before the Lord, and
he will exalt you.**

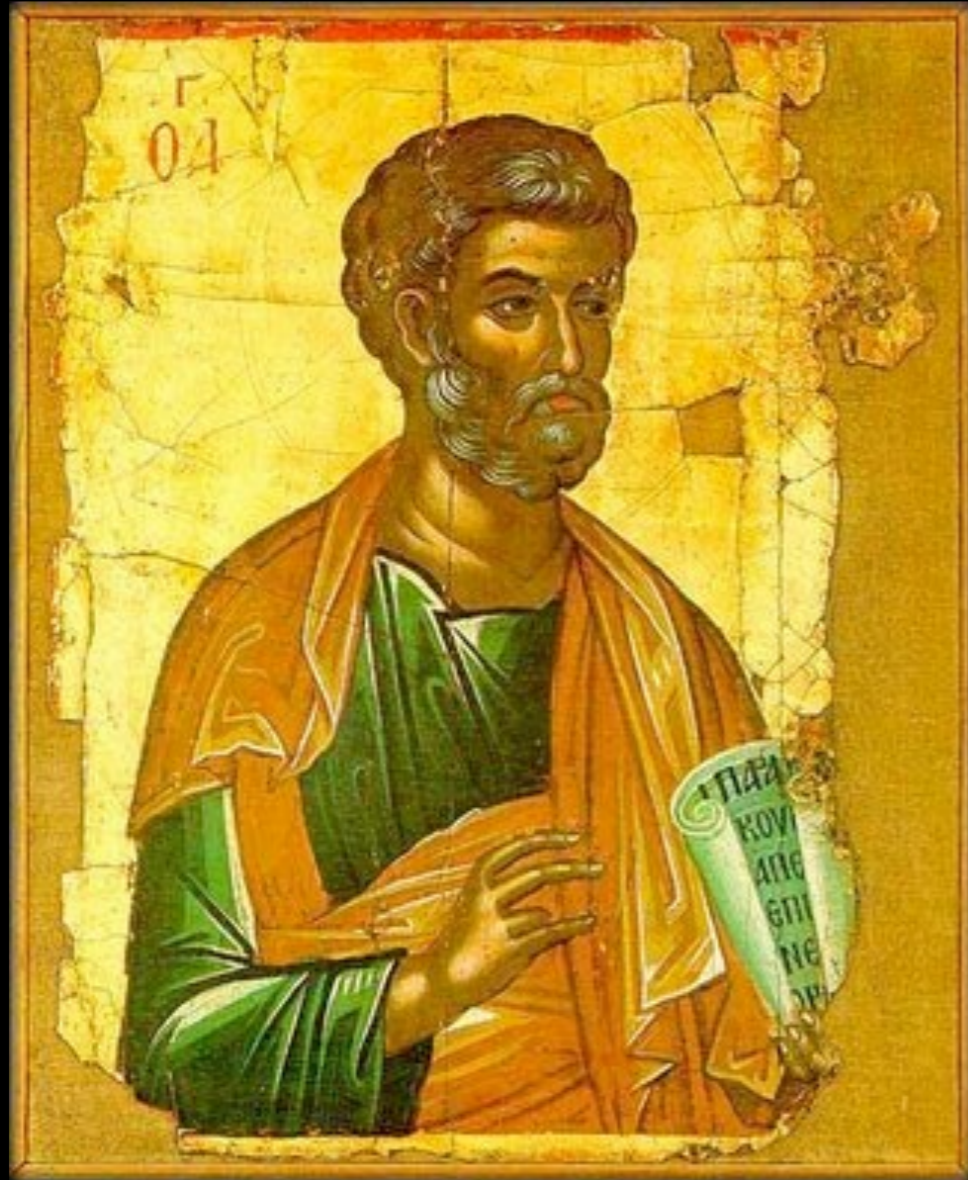
James, the Brother of Jesus
— James 4:10 —





The Apostle Peter
— 1 Peter 5:5-6 —

**Clothe yourselves,
all of you, with
humility toward
one another, for
“God opposes the
proud but gives
grace to the
humble.”**

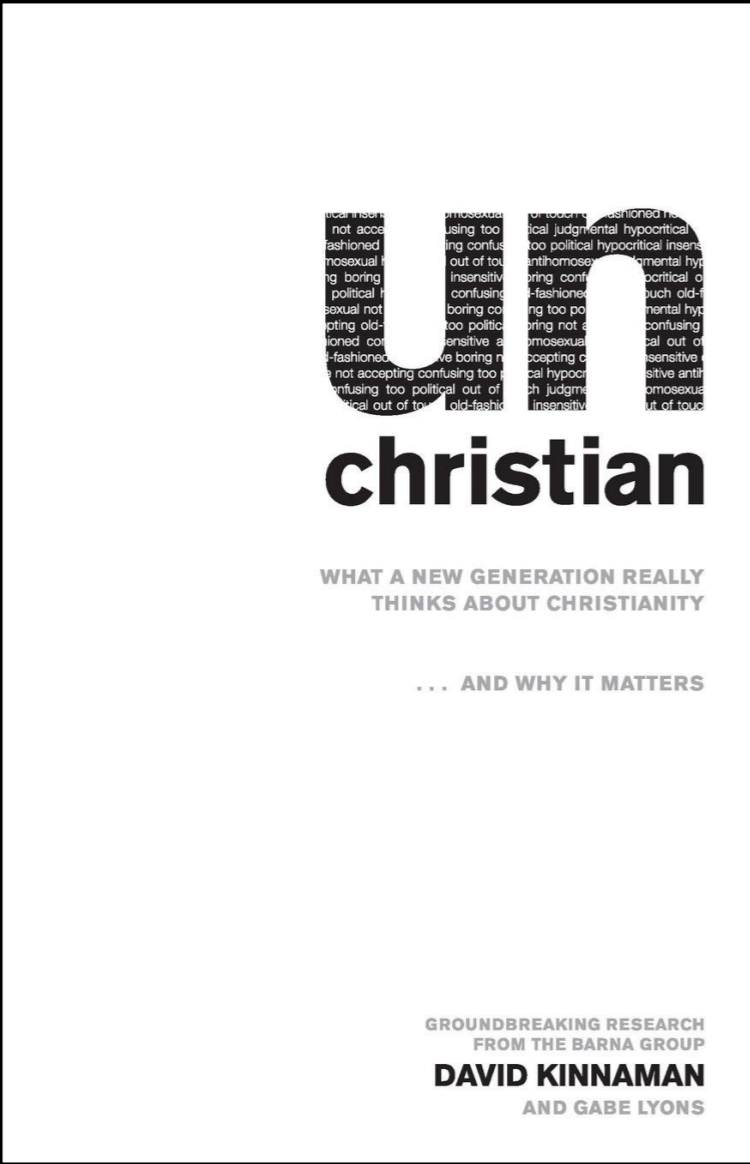


Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you....

The Apostle Peter
— 1 Peter 5:5-6 —

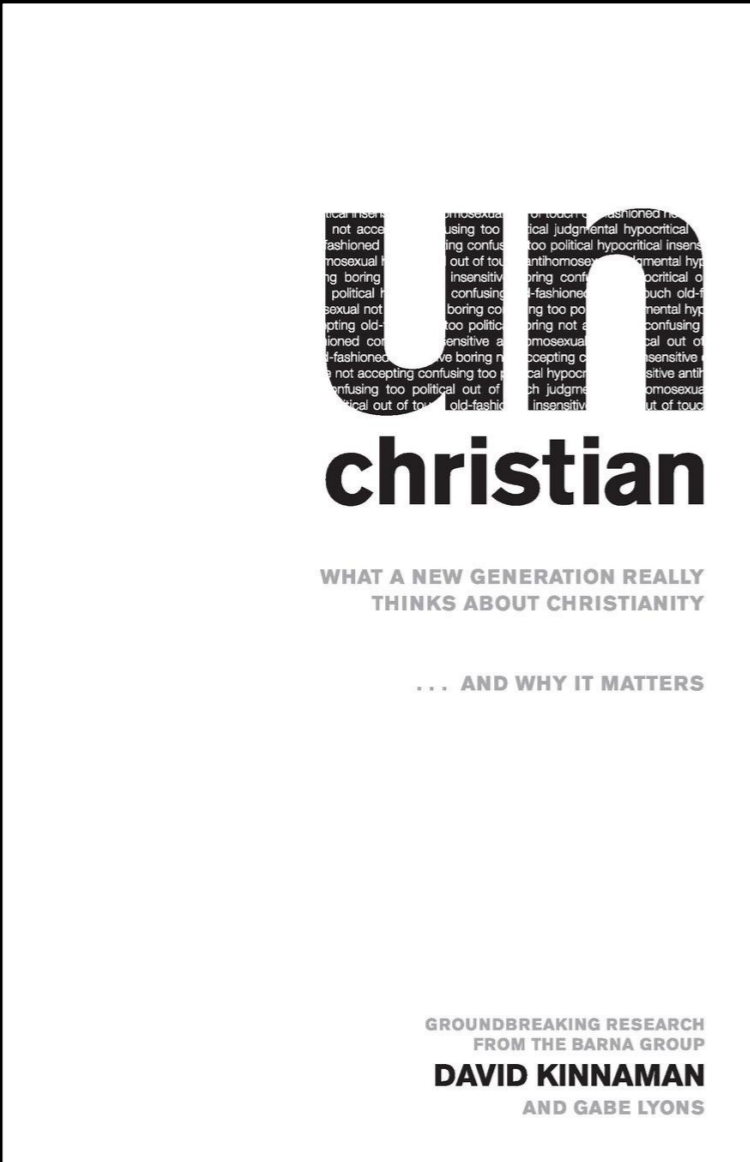
**Let's admit that a
“prideful Christian”
is a contradiction
in terms.**





**Christianity has
an image problem.
Christians are supposed
to represent Christ to
the world. But according
to the latest report card,
something has gone
terribly wrong.**





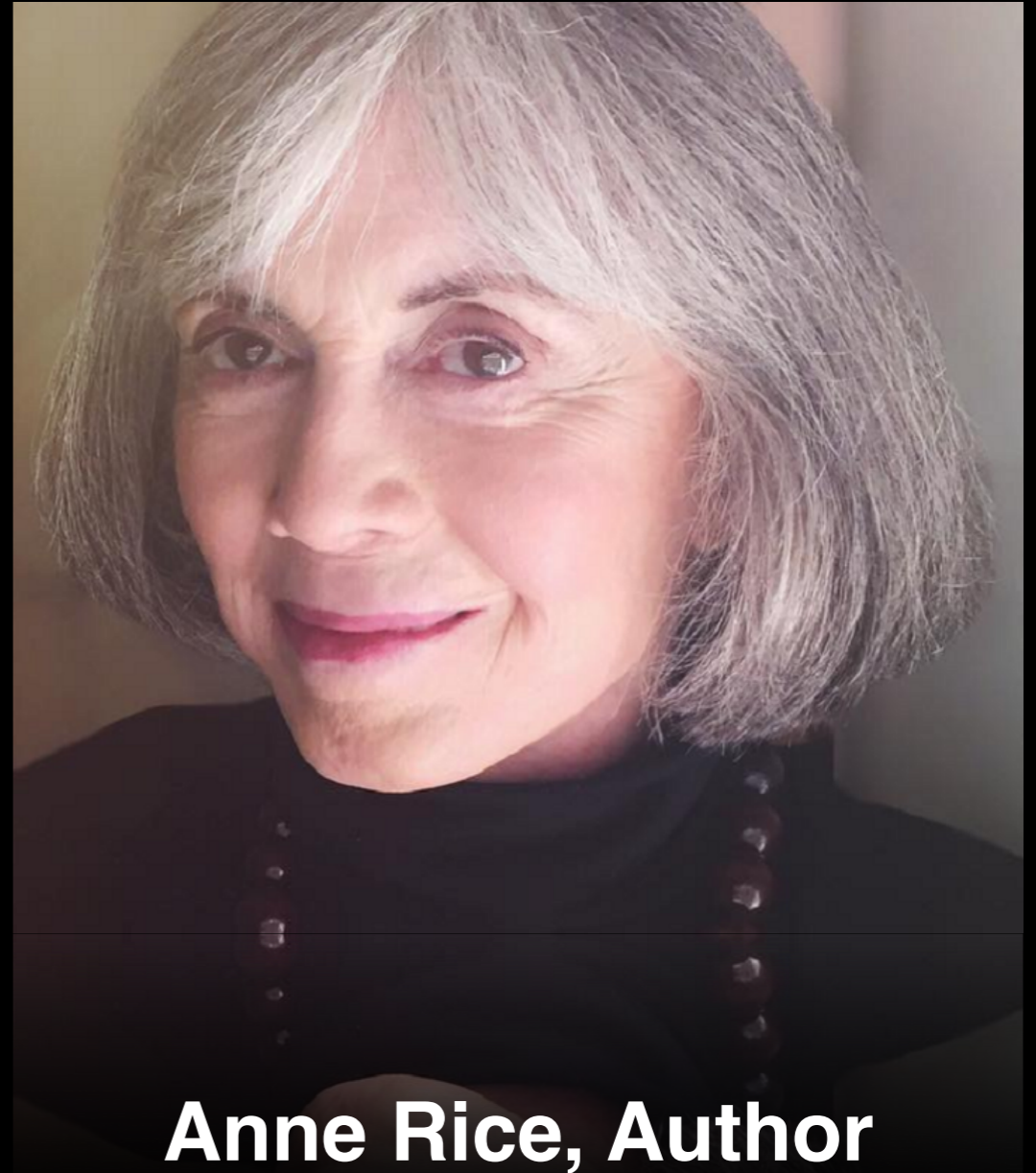
Using descriptions like “hypocritical,” “insensitive,” and “judgmental,” young Americans share an impression of Christians that’s nothing short of... unChristian.





— Max Lucado, *A Distant Thunder* —

**Today I quit being a
Christian. I'm out.
I remain committed to
Christ as always but
not to being 'Christian'
or to being part of
Christianity.**



Anne Rice, Author

**It's simply impossible
for me to "belong" to
this quarrelsome,
hostile, disputatious,
and deservedly
infamous group. For
ten years, I tried. I've
failed. I'm an outsider.
My conscience will
allow nothing else.**



Anne Rice, Author



**If that has been
your experience
with Christians,
we humbly say,
“We are so sorry!”**

Are you ‘leading in love’ —or with your politics and pet causes that allow you to define the boundaries of who you will care for?



INDISPENSABLE

THE
BASICS
OF
CHRISTIAN
BELIEF

DAVID P. CASSIDY

Foreword by Scotty Smith

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DAVID P. CASSIDY

**If your de-churched,
never-churched, LGBTQ,
agnostic, atheist, Hindu,
Muslim, Buddhist, Mormon,
or even Baptist neighbor
thinks the thing that
characterizes you is your
opinion rather than your
love, you're doing it wrong.**



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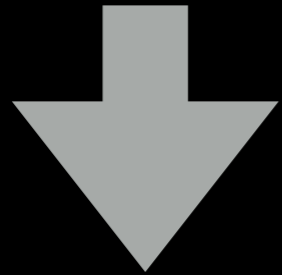
Foreword by Scotty Smith

DAVID P. CASSIDY



**Let's Cast Ourselves Upon
The Mercy of God in Christ.**

**God, be merciful
to me, a sinner.**



**“let there be an
atonement for me”**





My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

— 1 John 2:1-2 —



***UNSEARCHABLE
RICHES***

JOHN DICKIE

JOHN DICKIE

Life was once to me like summer
With its glitter and its smile
I as thoughtless as an insect
Trifled through the little while
All was buoyant life within me
All was jubilant around
Need of Jesus then I felt not
So I sought Him not, nor found

**But the summer soon was ended
And the gloomy winter came
All my blooming joys were withered
Into grays of every name
Still, I hoped the change of season
Would bring summer round again
But, instead, the gloom grew blacker—
And I sought the Savior then.**

Well I knew 'twas but through Jesus
That the sinner comes to God
But with what we come to Jesus?
Ah! 'twas here I missed the road
I was bringing Him obedience
When I should have brought but sin
So my knocking, though half-frantic
No admittance thus could win

Though I studied to know better
What already well I knew
And the good things that I practiced
Better still I strove to do
Yet the deeper grew the darkness
And the silence grew more dread
So I owned my case was hopeless
And my soul among the dead

**Then at once the peace of pardon
Did my sinking soul restore
And the love sprung up spontaneous
Which I could not force before
When I took the place of sinner
And at Mercy's footstool lay
Jesus took His place as Savior
And at once put sin away**

**Ah! 'tis ruinous to cover
Filthy sores with rags more foul
Strip them bare at once before Him
That His grace may make you whole
He delights in showing mercy
To a soul that owns its sin
But the soul that thinks of earning
Not a smile shall ever win**



**Plenteous grace
with Thee is found,
Grace to cover
all my sin**

— Jesus, Lover of My Soul —

**Let's admit that a
“prideful Christian”
is a contradiction
in terms.**



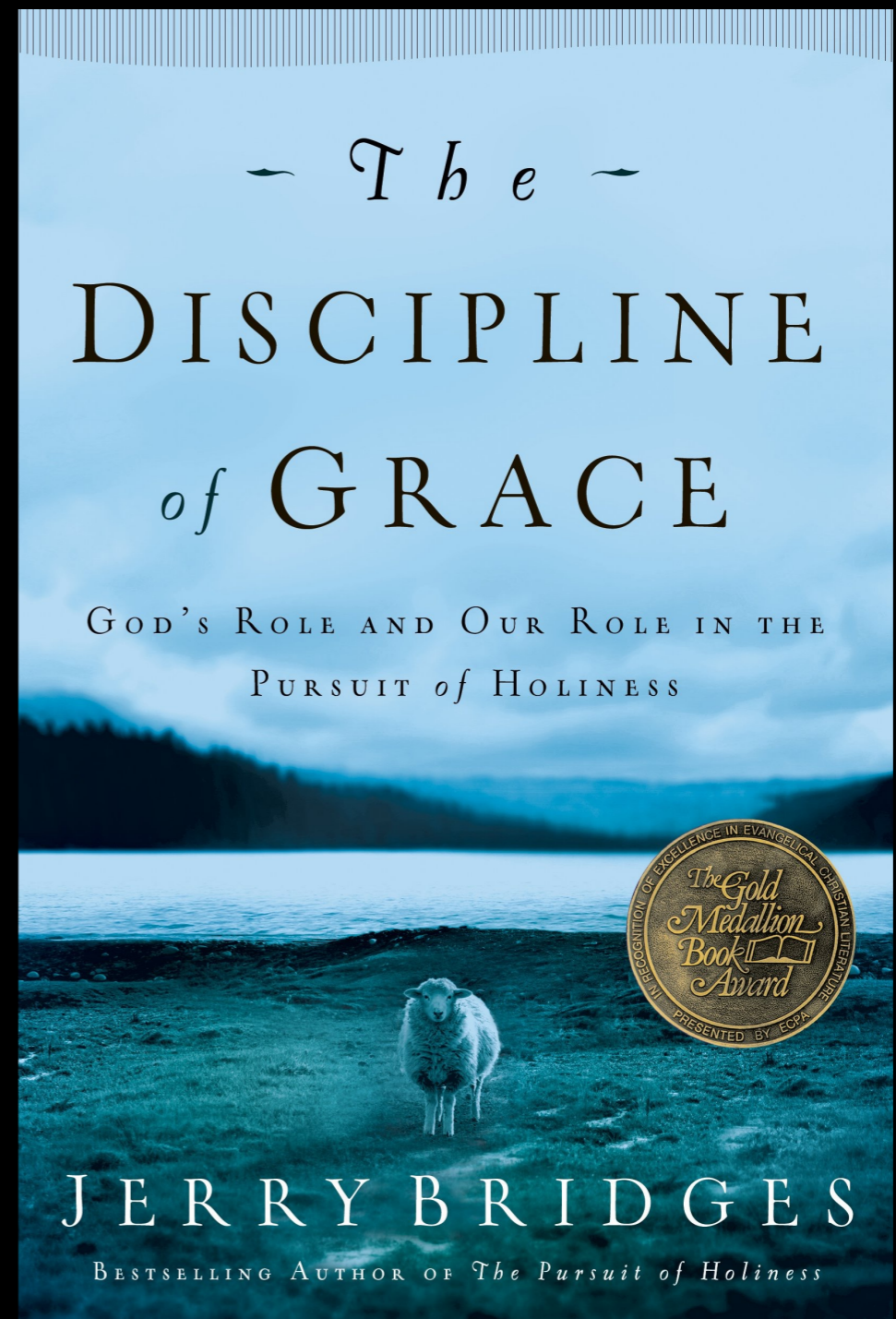


**Let's Cast Ourselves Upon
The Mercy of God in Christ.**

**Let's ruthlessly examine ourselves
for any hint of self-righteousness
or signs of contempt.**

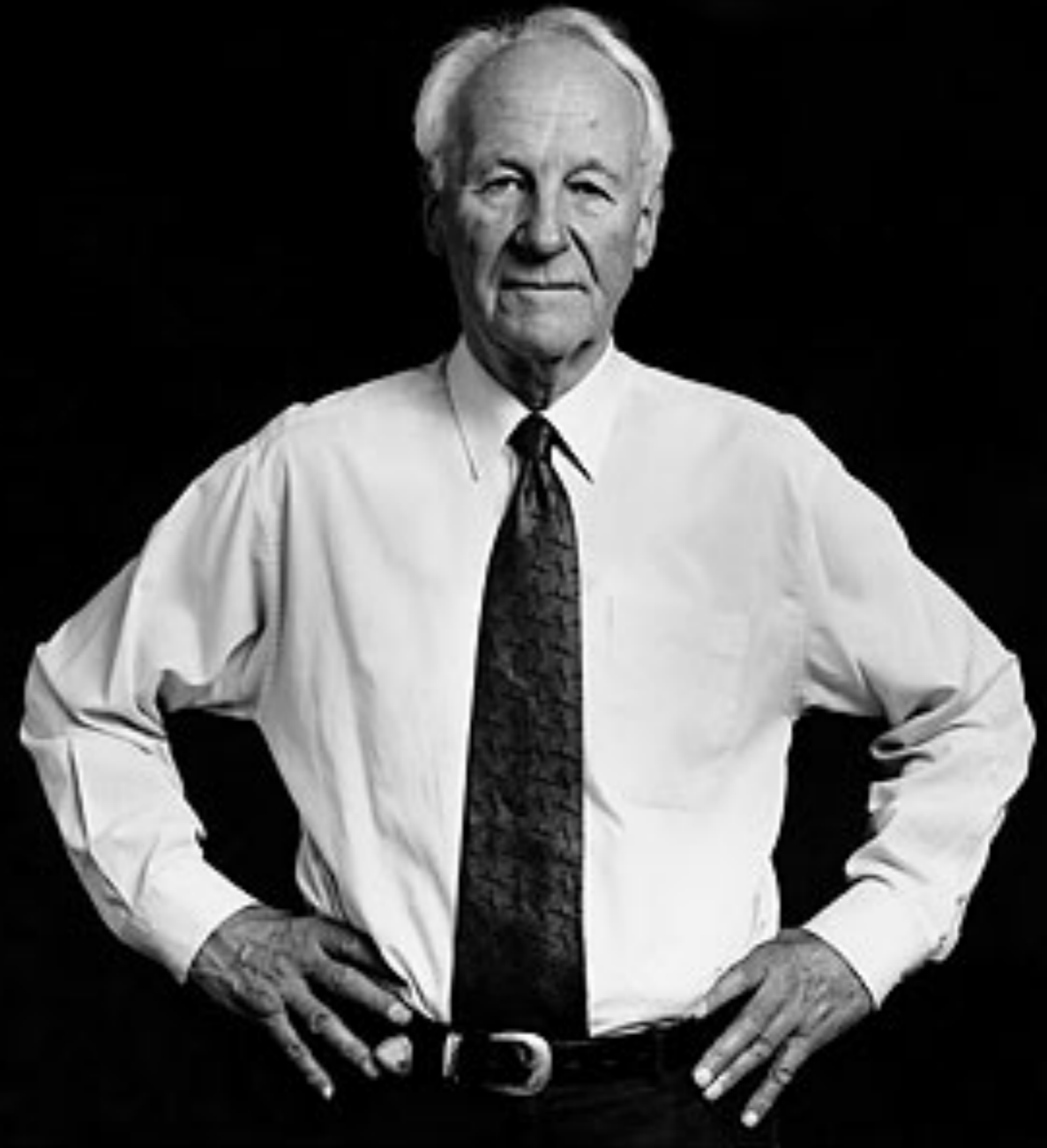


**The gospel, applied
to our hearts every
day, frees us to be
brutally honest
with ourselves
and with God....**



BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *The Pursuit of Holiness*
JERRY BRIDGES

At every stage of our
Christian develop-
ment and in every
sphere of our
Christian disciple-
ship, **PRIDE** is our
greatest enemy
and **HUMILITY** is
our **greatest friend.**



— John Stott —
Anglican Minister

**The pursuit of humility
is not an elective in the school
of following Christ.
It's more like the prerequisite
for kindergarten.**



**What if instead of
condemnation, we
became known for
giving benediction?**






**What if instead of
being on the hunt
to catch people
doing wrong, we
went on the hunt to
catch people doing
right?**



**What if instead
of looking for
someone to curse,
we started looking
for someone to
bless?**

A man with glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a checkered shirt and tie, is shown in a thoughtful pose. He has his right hand resting on his chin and is looking downwards. The background is a plain, light gray.

**What if instead of
naming people
according to their
worst behaviors and
features, we named
them according to
their best and most
God-reflecting ones?**

— Scott Sauls —





**May you humble
yourselves,
that God may
exalt you!**