

Message Notes

"I am the LORD" - MLK, Plagues, and De-Creation

MLK50

<https://vimeo.com/gospelcoalition>

The Gospel According to Moses: Exodus 8:20-9:12

The Plague of Flies

Ex. 8:20-32

Pharaoh is warned

The LORD makes a distinction

God's Word happens

Pharaoh is humbled?

Moses: Let us go!

Moses prays and the LORD relents

Pharaoh hardens his heart

The Plague on Livestock

Ex. 9:1-7

Pharaoh is warned yet again

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The Gospel according to Moses

Isaiah 45:5-6

The De-Creation of Exodus

1John 5:21

The Idols of our Day

Questions to consider and discuss

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

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20 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the river and say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. 21 If you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies; even the ground will be covered with them. 22 "But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the LORD, am in this land. 23 I will make a distinction between my people and your people. This sign will occur tomorrow." 24 And the LORD did this. Dense swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh's palace and into the houses of his officials; throughout Egypt the land was ruined by the flies. 25 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land." 26 But Moses said, "That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the LORD our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us? 27 We must take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, as he commands us." 28 Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the LORD your God in the wilderness, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me." 29 Moses answered, "As soon as I leave you, I will pray to the LORD, and tomorrow the flies will leave Pharaoh and his officials and his people. Only let Pharaoh be sure that he does not act deceitfully again by not letting the people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD." 30 Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD, 31 and the LORD did what Moses asked. The flies left Pharaoh and his officials and his people; not a fly remained. 32 But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go. 9:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may worship me.' 2 If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back, 3 the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle, sheep and goats. 4 But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.' 5 The LORD set a time and said, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this in the land." 6 And the next day the LORD did it: All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died. 7 Pharaoh investigated and found that not even one of the animals of the Israelites had died. Yet his heart was unyielding and he would not let the people go. 8 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. 9 It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on people and animals throughout the land." 10 So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on people and animals. 11 The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils that were on them and on all the Egyptians. 12 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.

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MLK 50



We must show the next generation
what it means to be a holy nation.
This holy nation isn't America.
It's the church of God.

-JACKIE HILL PERRY



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The Gospel Coalition 

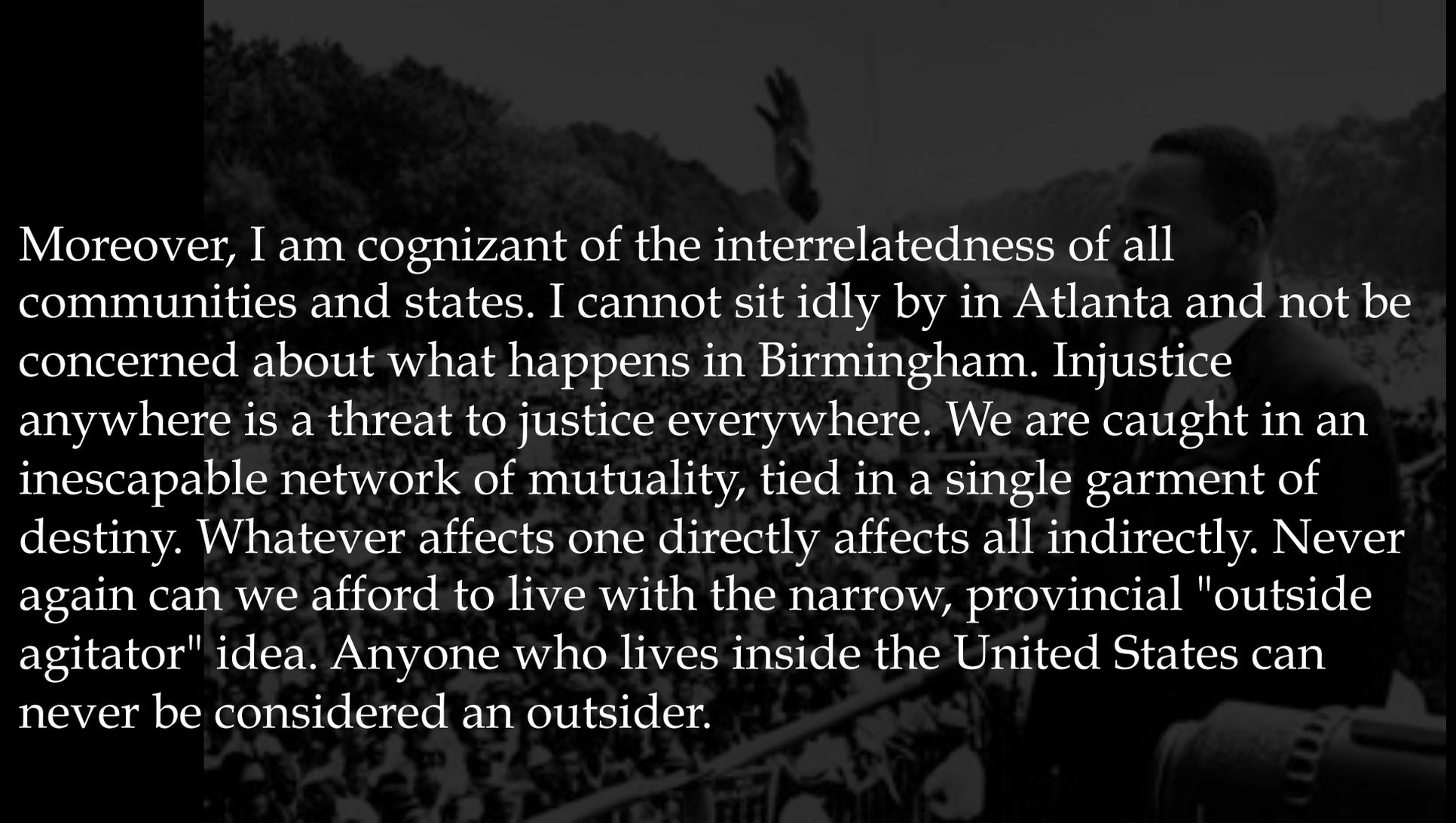
@TGC

“Trendy compassion” looks around and jumps on trends that it sees the world caring about. It makes the church look like insecure teenagers trying to fit in rather than fearless followers of the Son of God, which is not what we’ve been called to. —@TripLee #MLK50Conference
pic.twitter.com/zoZSuaO6q9

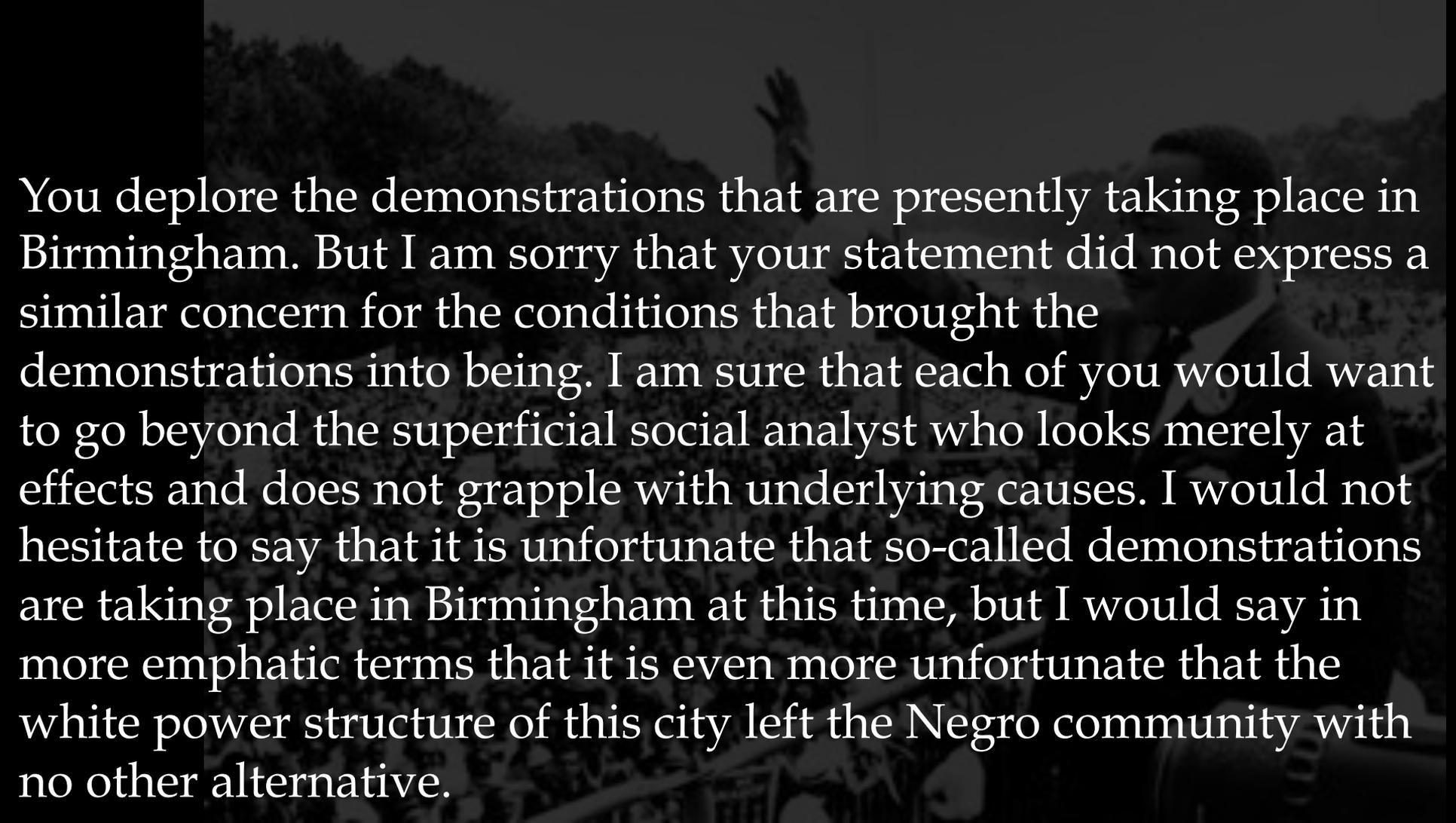
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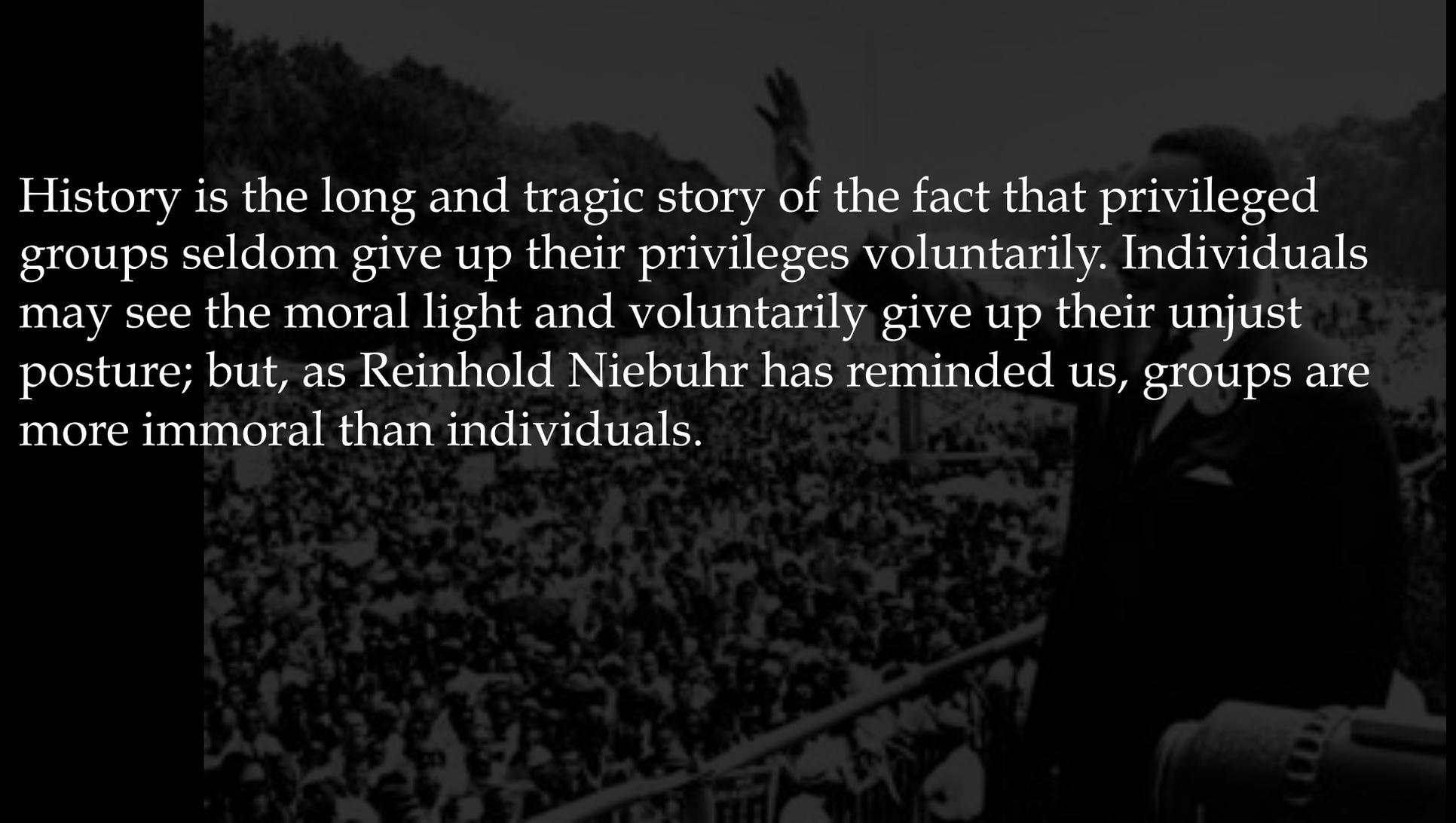




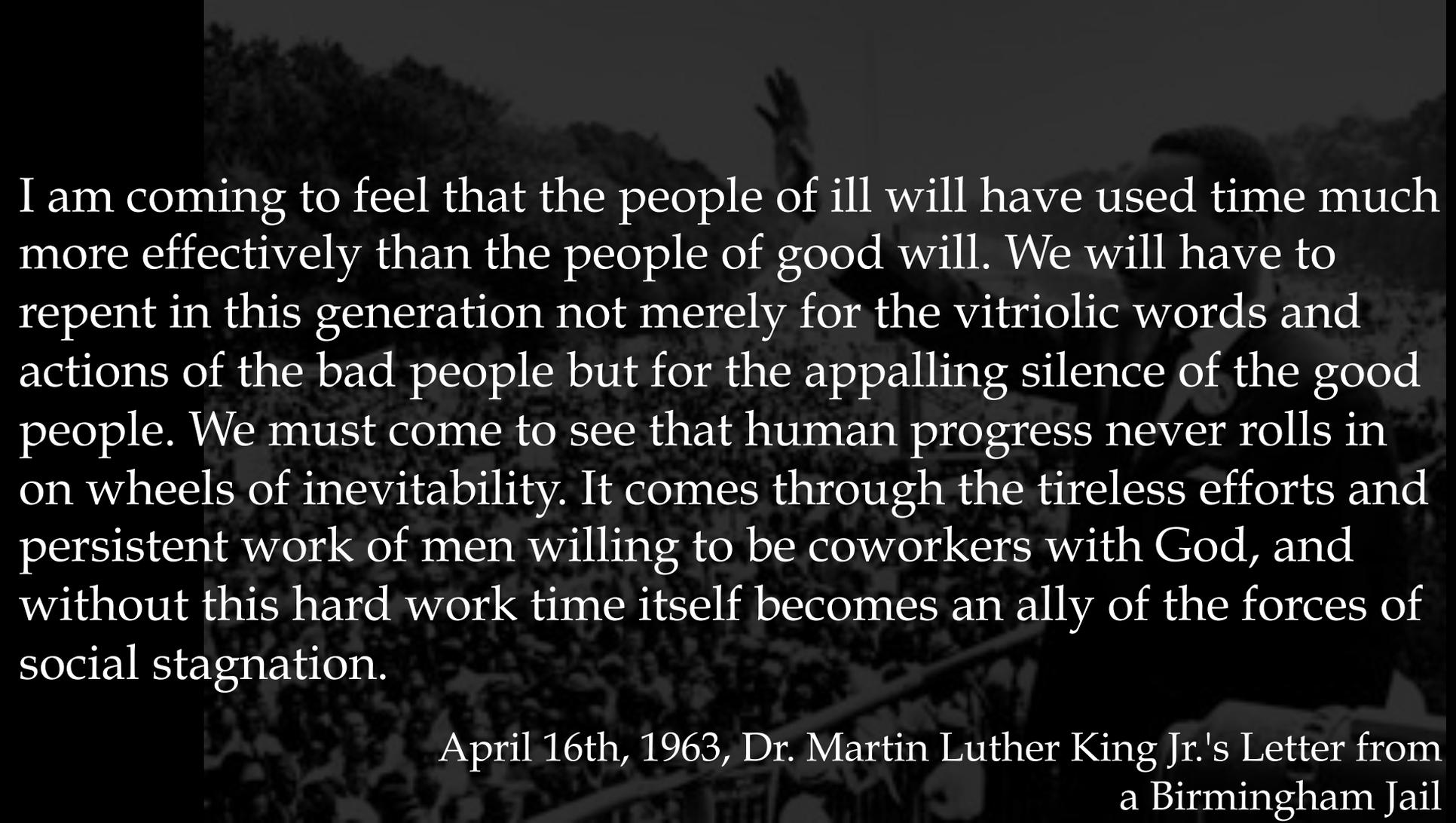
Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial "outside agitator" idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider.



You deplore the demonstrations that are presently taking place in Birmingham. But I am sorry that your statement did not express a similar concern for the conditions that brought the demonstrations into being. I am sure that each of you would want to go beyond the superficial social analyst who looks merely at effects and does not grapple with underlying causes. I would not hesitate to say that it is unfortunate that so-called demonstrations are taking place in Birmingham at this time, but I would say in more emphatic terms that it is even more unfortunate that the white power structure of this city left the Negro community with no other alternative.

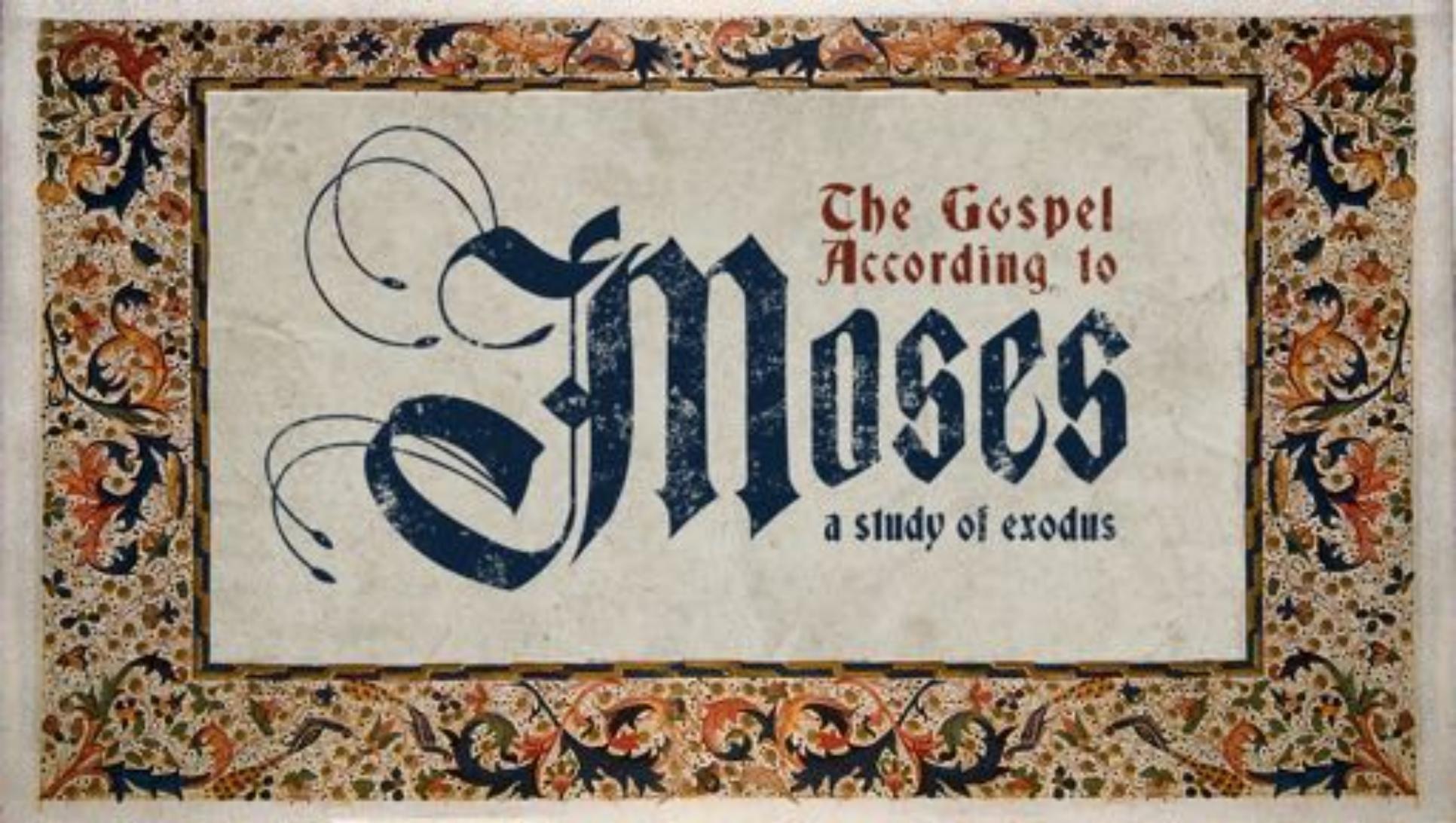


History is the long and tragic story of the fact that privileged groups seldom give up their privileges voluntarily. Individuals may see the moral light and voluntarily give up their unjust posture; but, as Reinhold Niebuhr has reminded us, groups are more immoral than individuals.



I am coming to feel that the people of ill will have used time much more effectively than the people of good will. We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people. We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of men willing to be coworkers with God, and without this hard work time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation.

April 16th, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter from
a Birmingham Jail

The page is framed by a wide, ornate border of floral and foliate motifs. The design features scrolling vines in shades of blue, orange, and green, interspersed with small, dark, star-shaped or floral elements. The background of the border is a light, textured beige or cream color.

The Gospel
According to
MOSES
a study of exodus

Today's Message:

I am the LORD -

MLK, Plagues, and De-Creation

Exodus 8:20-9:12



Waters Turn to Blood
Exodus 7:14-25



Amphibians (frogs)
Exodus 7:26-36:11



Gnats (Lice)
Exodus 8:12-15



Flies
Exodus 8:16-28



Disease on Livestock
Exodus 9:1-7

The Ten Plagues of Egypt



Unhealable Sores
Exodus 9:8-12



Hail and Fire
Exodus 9:13-35



Locusts
Exodus 10:1-20



Darkness
Exodus 10:21-29



Death of First-Born
Exodus 11:1-12:36

The Plague of Flies

Pharaoh is warned

Exodus 8:20–32 (NIV)

²⁰ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the river and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. ²¹ If you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies; even the ground will be covered with them.

The Plague of Flies

The LORD makes a distinction

Exodus 8:20–32 (NIV)

²² “ ‘But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the LORD, am in this land. ²³ I will make a distinction between my people and your people. This sign will occur tomorrow.’ ”

²⁴ And the LORD did this. Dense swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh’s palace and into the houses of his officials; throughout Egypt the land was ruined by the flies.

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God's Word happens

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Pharaoh is humbled?

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Moses: Let us go!

Exodus 8:20–32 (NIV)

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Moses prays and the LORD relents

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³⁰ Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD, ³¹ and the LORD did what Moses asked. The flies left Pharaoh and his officials and his people; not a fly remained. ³² But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

The Plague of Flies

Pharaoh hardens his heart

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The Plague on Livestock

Pharaoh is warned yet again

Exodus 9:1-7 (NIV)

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Pharaoh's heart was hardened yet again

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The Plague of Boils

God's Word toward Pharaoh

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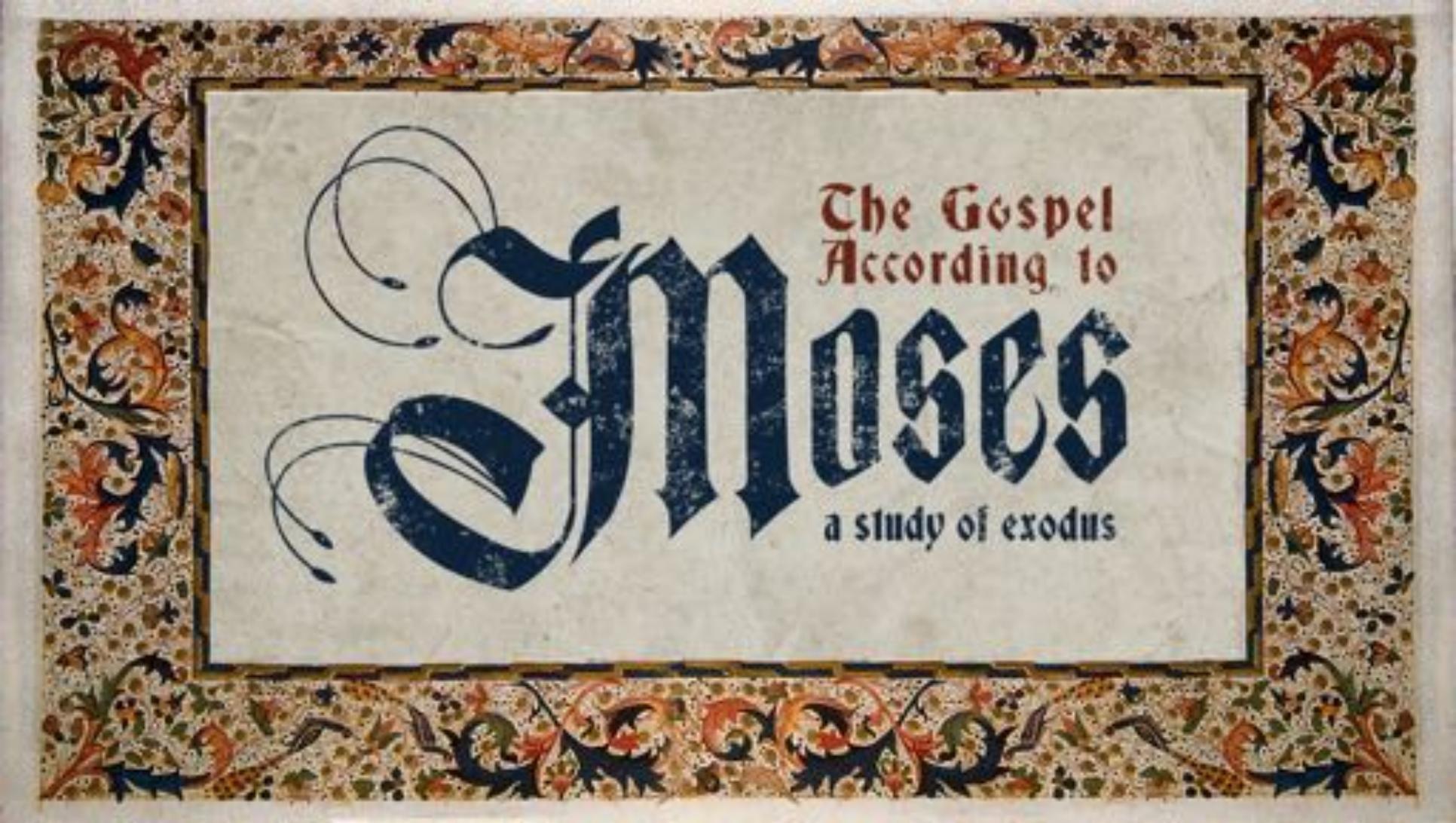
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The LORD hardens Pharaoh's heart

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The Gospel
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Isaiah 45:5–6 (NIV)

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
apart from me there is no God.

I will strengthen you,
though you have not acknowledged me,
⁶ so that from the rising of the sun
to the place of its setting
people may know there is none besides me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

The Plagues and the Gods and Goddesses of Egypt

Plagues	References	Possible Egyptian Gods and Goddesses of Egypt Attacked by the Plagues*
1. Nile turned to blood	Exodus 7:14-25	Hapi (also called Apis), the bull god, god of the Nile; Isis, goddess of the Nile; Khnum, ram god guardian of the Nile; and others
2. Frogs	8:1-15	Heqet, goddess of birth, with a frog head
3. Gnats	8:16-19	Set, god of the desert
4. Flies	8:20-32	Re, a sun god; or the god Uatchit, possibly represented by the fly
5. Death of livestock	9:1-7	Hathor, goddess with the cow head; Apis, the bull god, symbol of fertility
6. Boils	9:8-12	Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease; Sunu, the pestilence god, Isis, goddess of healing

Creation Day	Creation Description	Plague on Egypt	Plague Description
Day 1 Gen. 1:1-5	Light out of darkness	Plague 9 Ex. 10:21-29	Darkness prevailing over light
Day 2 Gen. 1:6-8	Ordering and separation of the waters	Plague 1 Ex. 7:15-25	Chaos and destruction due to water changed into blood
Day 3 Gen. 1:9-13	Appearance of dry land and creation of vegetation	Plagues 7-8 Ex. 9:18-10:20	Destruction of vegetation by hail and locusts
Day 4 Gen. 1:14-19	Creation of luminaries	Plague 9 Ex. 10:21-29	Darkening of luminaries
Day 5 Gen. 1:20-23	Creation of birds and fish of the sea	Plagues 1-2 Ex. 7:15-8-15	Death of fish; multiplication and death of frogs
Day 6 Gen. 1:24-31	Creation of land animals and humans	Plagues 3-4 Ex. 8:16-24 Plague 5 Ex. 9:1-7 Plague 6 Ex. 9:8-17 Plague 10 Ex. 11-12	Pestilence of insects Death of beasts Boils on beasts and humans Death of firstborn

What is really interesting here is that this is a de-creation story... The scene in Genesis 1 opens with what? Darkness. Right? Formless and void. And what's going on? The Spirit is hovering over the waters. And what is the Spirit doing? It is waiting to give life. Do you remember that? And then what does God say? He says, "Let there be light.' And there was light." And what happens over those next days? We see an ordering of those three spheres in the cosmos. First, he orders the water. The he orders the firmament, the heaven, the sky. And then he orders the land. Did you see what happened in these nine plagues? The complete reverse.

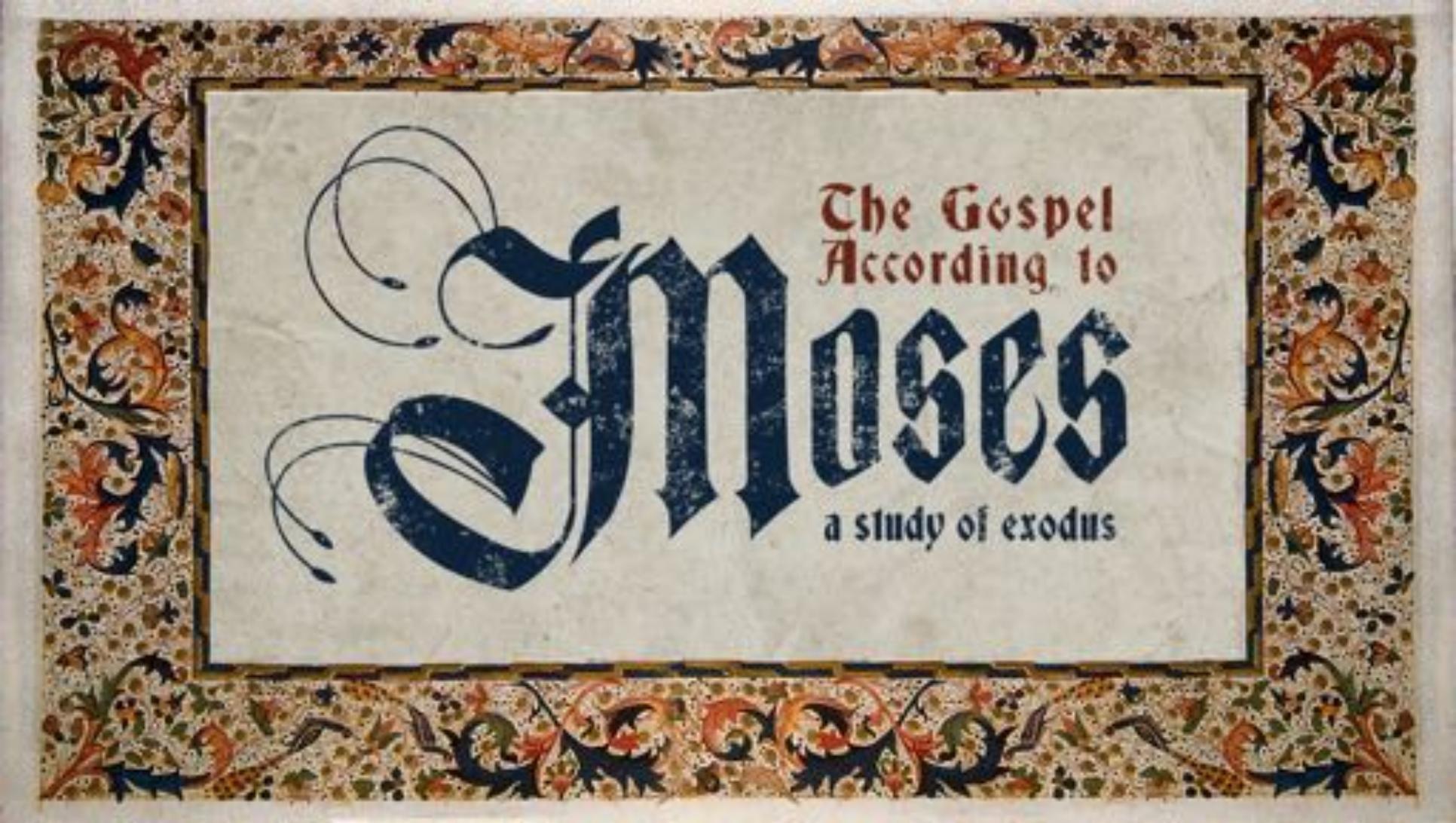
~ Jen Wilkin, Podcast: *Exodus I, week 6: Plagues*



(God) disorders the waters, the sky, and the land. And then in plague nine, what does he say? Let there be what? Darkness. And there was darkness. And what is going to happen next week? The Spirit is hovering not to give life but to bring death... thus signifying that we have a flipped upside-down story here. What God is saying is, 'Pharaoh, you believe that you bring order to the Cosmos and you are wrong. I bring order. And guess what, I can bring disorder too.' A complete deconstructing. It's Pharaoh's job description to maintain order in the Cosmos and the whole thing has just come unhinged.

~ Jen Wilkin, Podcast: *Exodus I, week 6: Plagues*



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1 John 5:21 (NIV)

²¹ Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

Two questions for Sunday's message

By completing this form, you are willing to have your answers shared anonymously this Sunday.

In Ex. 7:17 it reads, "By this you will know that I am the LORD." Then we see 10 plagues. In this God comes against the gods of the Egyptians, whom they believed in and trusted in to provide life and its necessities. What do you believe are the gods of Americans/Westerners, whom we are believing in and trusting in to provide life and its necessities?

Your answer

Each plague was directed against a god in whom the Egyptians trusted so they would know Yahweh is the LORD of all. Given your answer(s) above, and using your imagination, what might be a plague (i.e. an action) that God could bring forth to show he is LORD over the gods Americans are trusting in for life?

Your answer

Questions to consider and discuss:

What are our greatest idols?

Answer with both individual and corporate idols

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How does Jesus – and all the he provides us –
allow us to turn from specific idols?

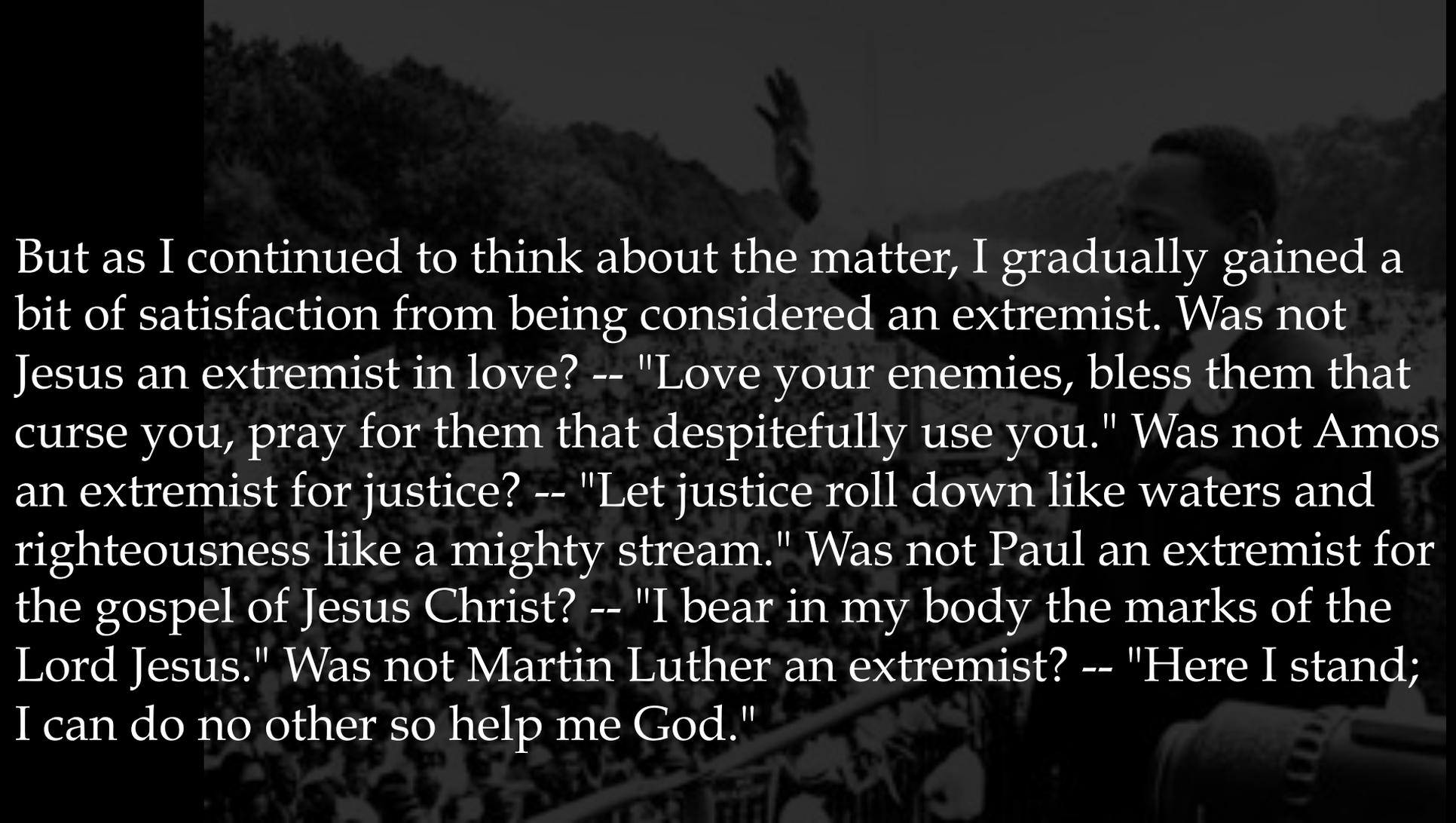
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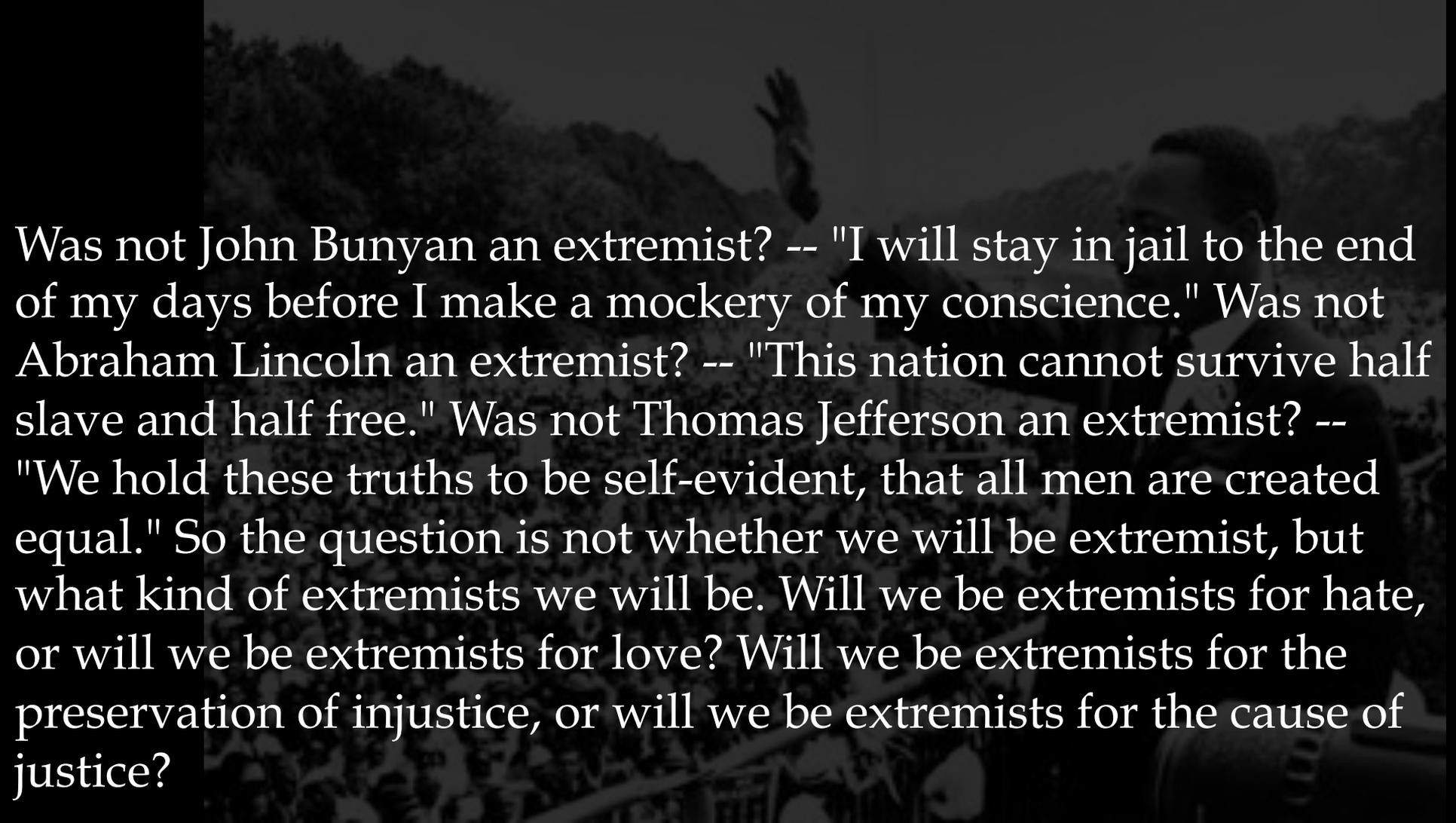
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How does Jesus – and all the he provides us –
allow us to turn from specific idols?

Then, having received from Jesus,
how can we bring this life and hope to our communities?



But as I continued to think about the matter, I gradually gained a bit of satisfaction from being considered an extremist. Was not Jesus an extremist in love? -- "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you." Was not Amos an extremist for justice? -- "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." Was not Paul an extremist for the gospel of Jesus Christ? -- "I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." Was not Martin Luther an extremist? -- "Here I stand; I can do no other so help me God."



Was not John Bunyan an extremist? -- "I will stay in jail to the end of my days before I make a mockery of my conscience." Was not Abraham Lincoln an extremist? -- "This nation cannot survive half slave and half free." Was not Thomas Jefferson an extremist? -- "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." So the question is not whether we will be extremist, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate, or will we be extremists for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice, or will we be extremists for the cause of justice?

The contemporary church is so often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's often vocal sanction of things as they are.

But the judgment of God is upon the church as never before. If the church of today does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authentic ring, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century. I meet young people every day whose disappointment with the church has risen to outright disgust. I hope the church as a whole will meet the challenge of this decisive hour.