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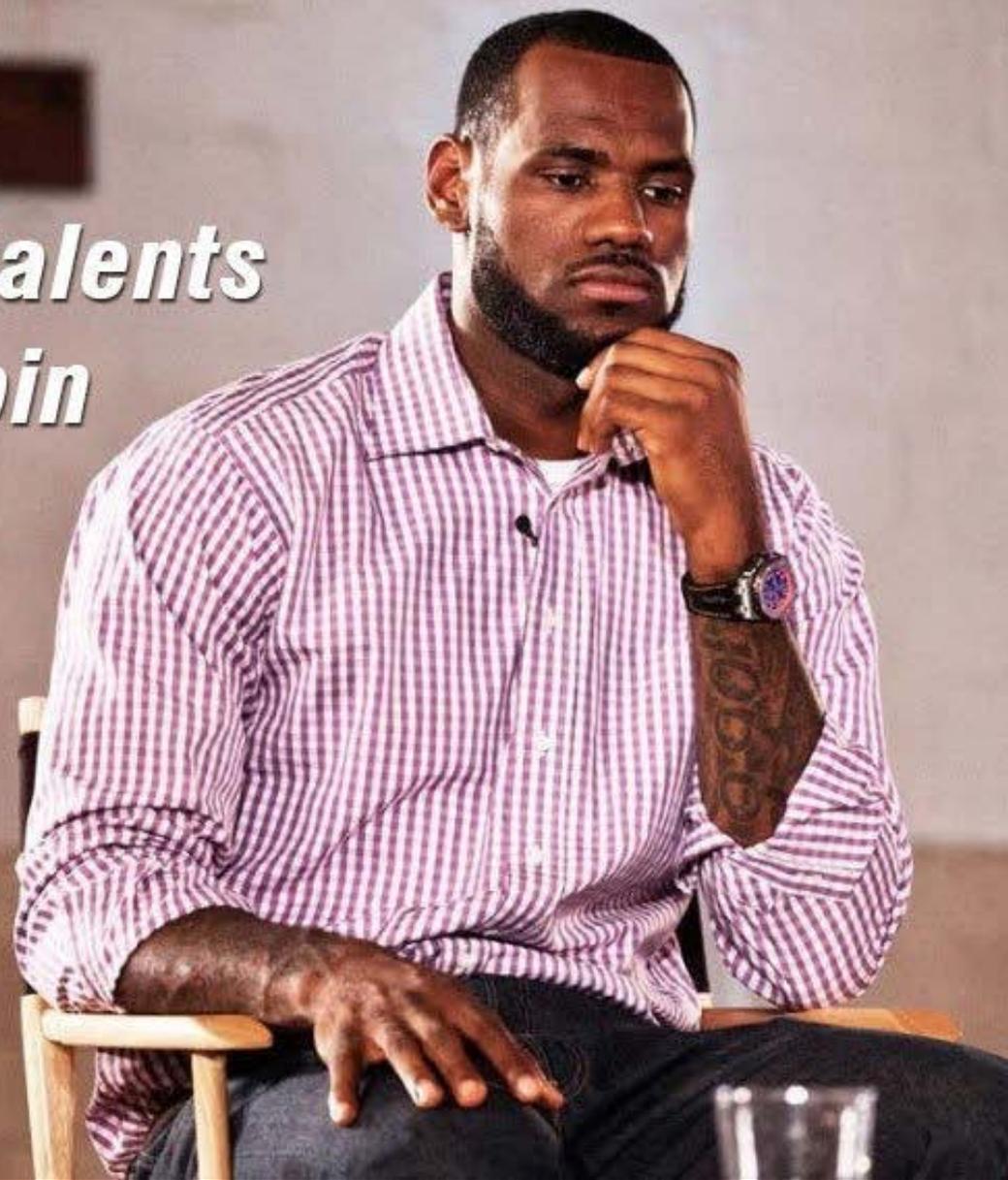
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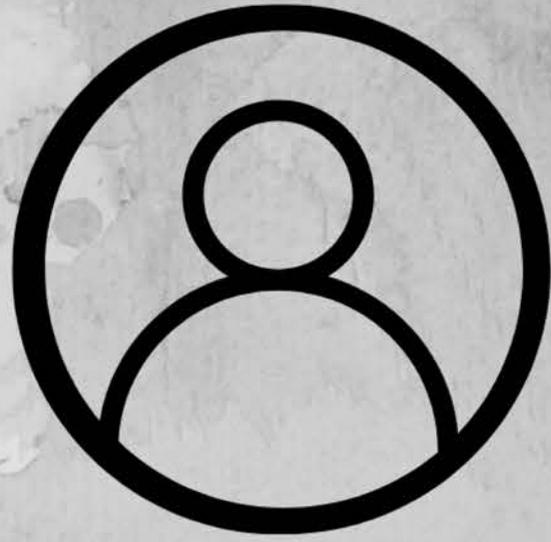
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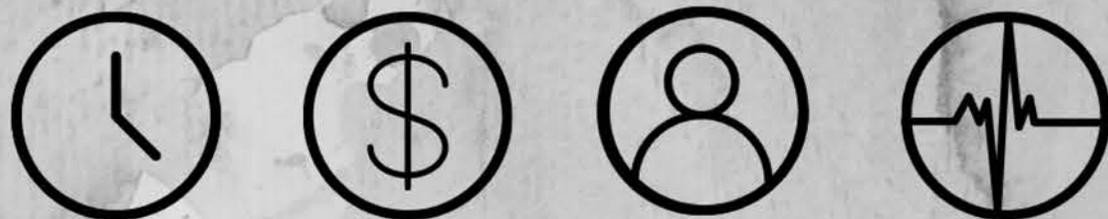
THE PACK

***“I’m going to take my talents  
to South Beach and join  
the Miami Heat.”***

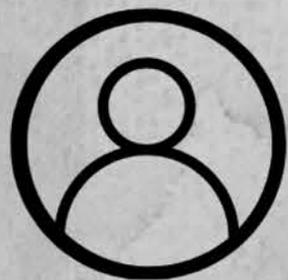




**TALENT**

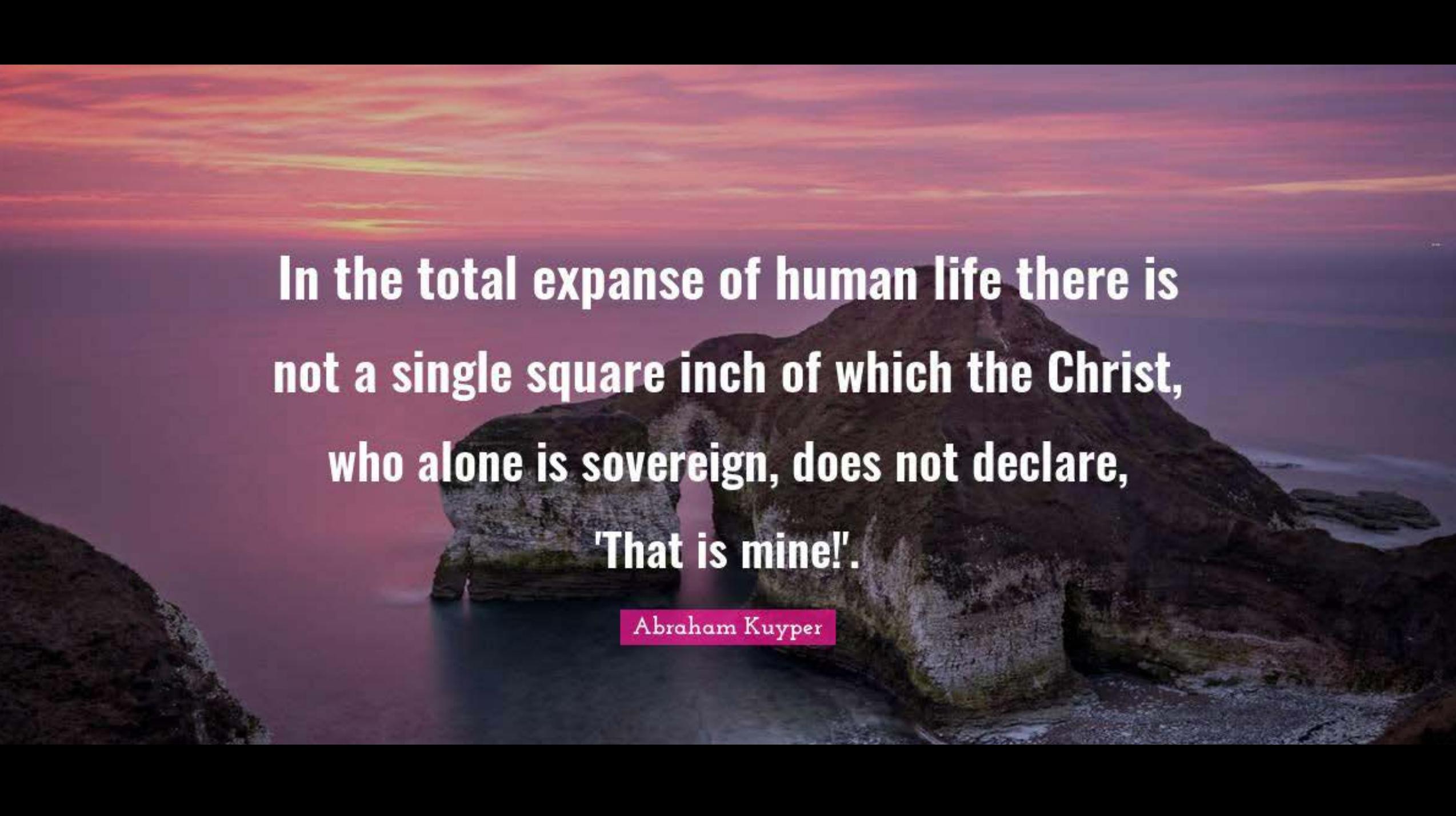


**ENTRUSTED**



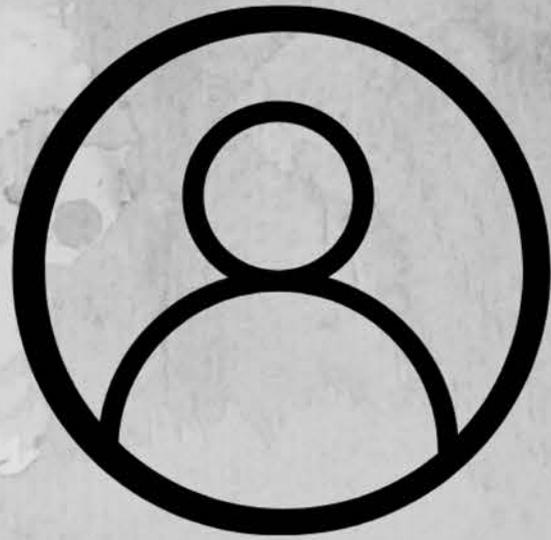
# ENTRUSTED

Stewardship speaks of two critical realities. Number one, God is the owner of everything. Number two, God entrusts us to oversee some of his most special gifts. In this four-week series, we will learn more concerning the stewardship of God's creation and gifts. And, more importantly, we will worship more deeply the one who owns it all.



**In the total expanse of human life there is not a single square inch of which the Christ, who alone is sovereign, does not declare, 'That is mine!'.**

Abraham Kuyper



**TALENT**

What is it?

## Psalm 139:13-15

<sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully  
made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

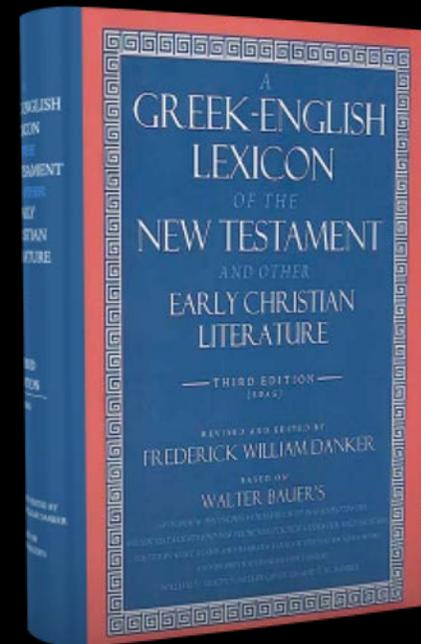
<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

# Talents are special “gifts”

χάρισμα

that which is freely and graciously given,  
favor bestowed, gift

William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1081.



# 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

# Two Left Turns..



*1. Puzzle*

**1 Corinthians 12:28**

1. apostle<sup>7</sup>
2. prophet
3. teacher
4. miracles
5. kinds of healings
6. helps
7. administration
8. tongues

**1 Corinthians 12:8-10**

9. word of wisdom
10. word of knowledge
11. faith
- (5) gifts of healing
- (4) miracles
- (2) prophecy
12. distinguishing  
between spirits
- (8) tongues
13. interpretation of  
tongues

**Ephesians 4:11<sup>8</sup>**

- (1) apostle
- (2) prophet
14. evangelist
15. pastor-teacher

**Romans 12:6-8**

- (2) prophecy
16. serving
- (3) teaching
17. encouraging
18. contributing
19. leadership
20. mercy

**1 Corinthians 7:7**

21. marriage
22. celibacy

**1 Peter 4:11**

Whoever speaks (covering several gifts)

Whoever renders service (covering several gifts)

# Two Left Turns..



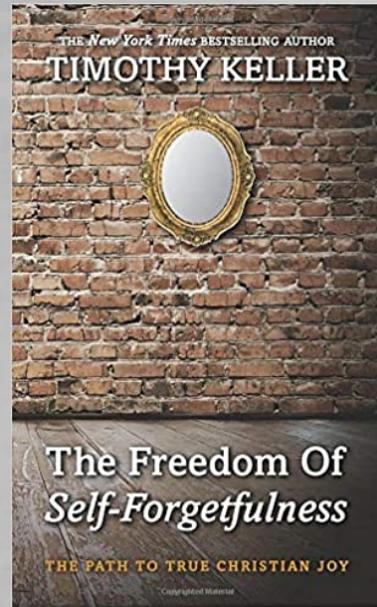
*1. Puzzle*

**America's  
got Talent**

*2. Purpose*

In his book *Sickness Unto Death*, Søren Kierkegaard says, it is the normal state of the human heart to try to build its identity around something besides God. Spiritual pride is the illusion that we are competent to run our own lives, achieve our own sense of self-worth and find a purpose big enough to give us meaning in life without God.”

Tim Keller, *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness*



## Ecclesiastes 3:11

<sup>11</sup> He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

WAR  
*And*  
PEACE



LEO TOLSTOY

TRANSLATED BY

RICHARD PEVEAR *AND* LARISSA VOLOKHONSKY

ANNA KARENINA

Leo Tolstoy

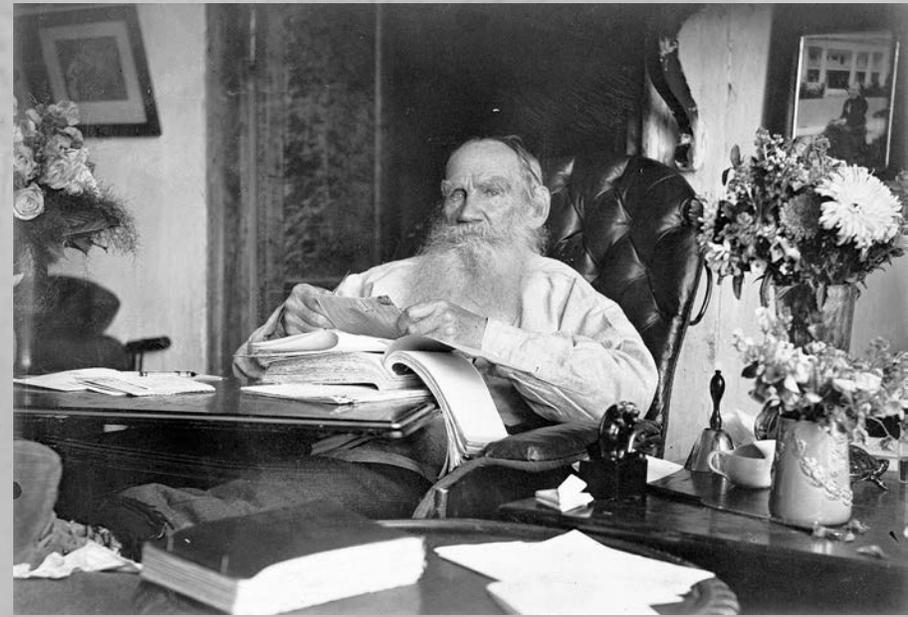


B  
BARNES  
& NOBLE  
CLASSICS

Introduction and Notes by Amy Mandelker  
Translated by Constance Garnett

At the thought of God, happy waves of life welled up inside me. Everything came alive, took on meaning. The moment I thought I knew God, I lived. But the moment I forgot him, the moment I stopped believing, I also stopped living.”

Leo Tolstoy



## Psalm 29:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
worship the Lord in the splendor of his  
holiness.

## Isaiah 48:2

I am the LORD; that is my name!  
I will not yield my glory to another  
or my praise to idols.

S E R I E S P R E M I E R E

A new drama from the creators  
of *Walker, Texas Ranger*.



Guest Star  
**Chuck Norris**

# *sons of thunder*

Saturday, March 6 at 10/9c on CBS  

[www.cbs.com](http://www.cbs.com)

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## Mark 10:35-45

<sup>35</sup> Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.”

<sup>36</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

<sup>37</sup> They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.”

## Mark 10:35-45

<sup>38</sup> “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

<sup>39</sup> “We can,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, <sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”

## Mark 10:35-45

<sup>41</sup> When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. <sup>42</sup> Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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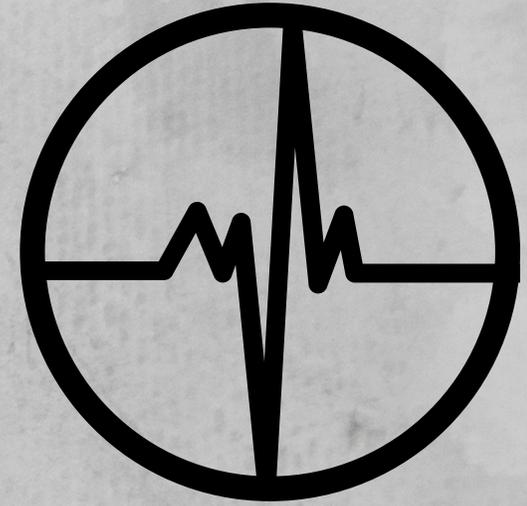
**TIME**



**TREASURE**



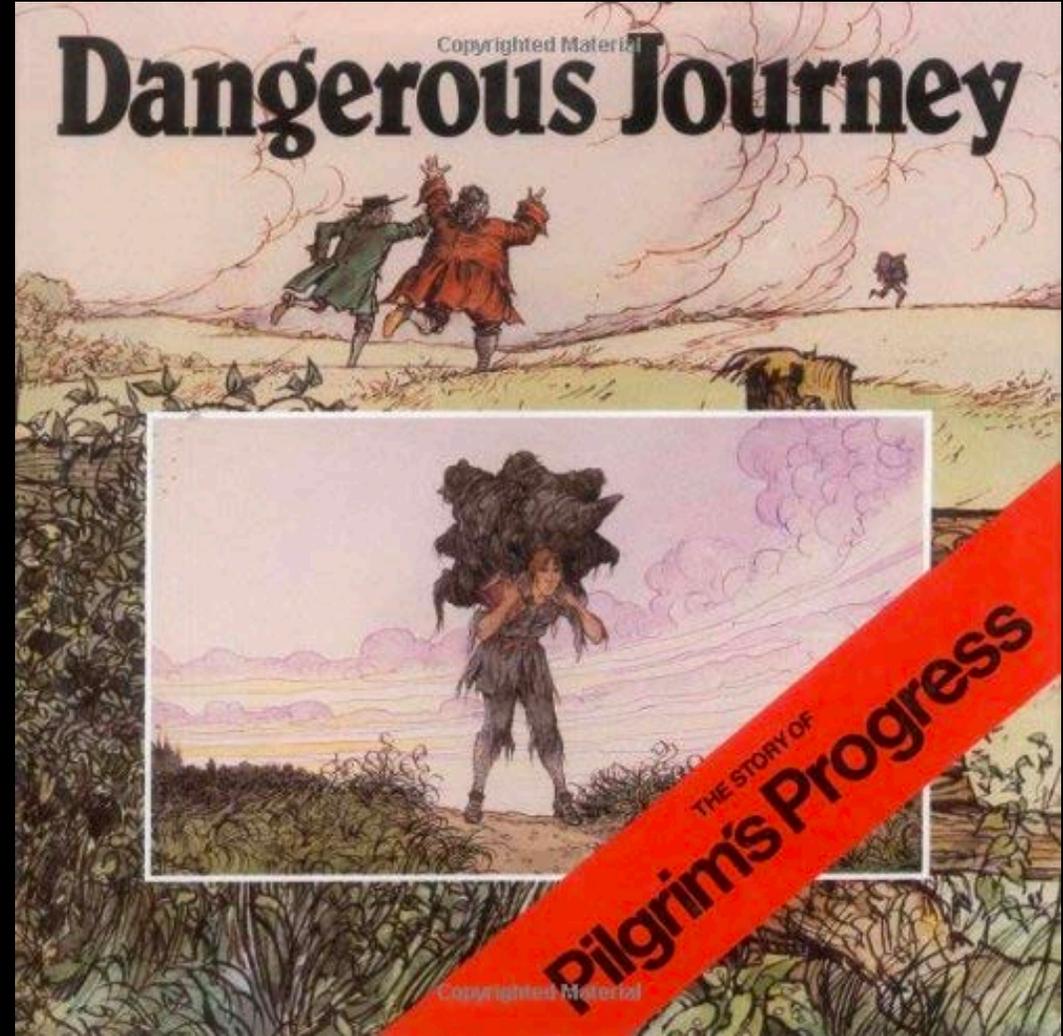
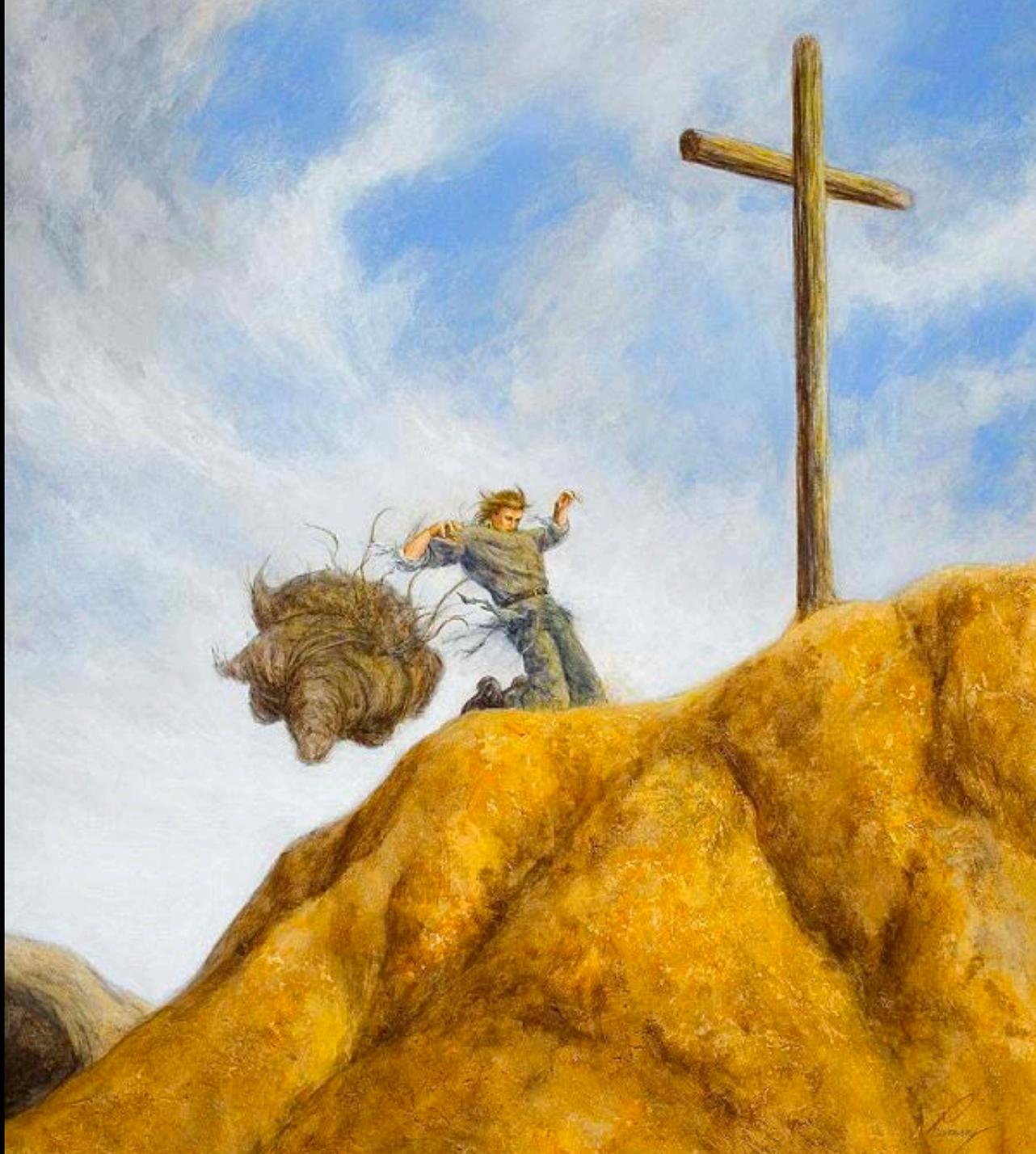
**TALENT**



**TICKER**

## Mark 10:35-45

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## 1 Peter 4:10-11

<sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The Church's  
got Talent

America's  
got Talent

vs.

The Church's  
got Talent

- Perform for a reward

- Reward first, action follows

**America's**  
got **Talent**

vs.

**The Church's**  
got **Talent**

- Perform for a reward
- Nervous for Approval

- Reward first, action follows
- Approval received & believed

America's  
got Talent

vs.

The Church's  
got Talent

- Perform for a reward
- Nervous for Approval
- Always threatened

- Reward first, action follows
- Approval received & believed
- Unshakeable

## Psalm 46:10-11

He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

# America's got Talent

vs.

# The Church's got Talent

- Perform for a reward
- Nervous for Approval
- Always threatened
- Lasts for a moment

- Reward first, action follows
- Approval received & believed
- Unshakeable
- Grows with time

## Philippians 3:8-11

<sup>8</sup> What's more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

# America's got Talent

vs.

# The Church's got Talent

- Perform for a reward
- Nervous for Approval
- Always threatened
- Lasts for a moment
- Striving after an ideal

- Reward first, action follows
- Approval received & believed
- Unshakeable
- Grows with time
- Free to be you, not “ideal” you

“There is no bench  
for the church.  
Christianity is not a  
bench sport.”



# America's got Talent

vs.

# The Church's got Talent

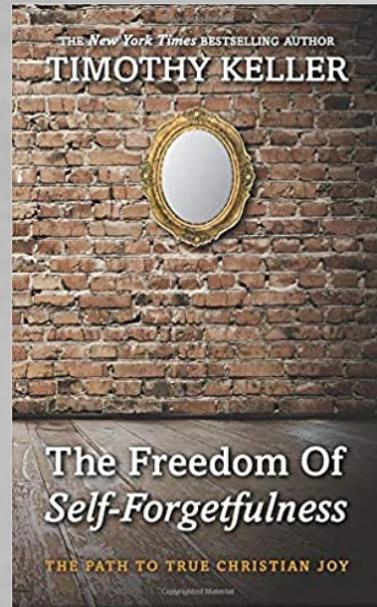
- Perform for a reward
- Nervous for Approval
- Always threatened
- Lasts for a moment
- Striving after an ideal
- Self-absorbed: forever bouncing back and forth between pride & despair

- Reward first, action follows
- Approval received & believed
- Unshakeable
- Grows with time
- Free to be you, not “ideal” you
- Self-forgetfulness causing deeper experiences of joy, humility, rest, love, humor, patience, and even singing

C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity* makes a brilliant observation about gospel-humility at the very end of his chapter on pride. If we were to meet a truly humble person, Lewis says, we would never come away from meeting them thinking they were humble. They would not be always telling us they were a nobody (because a person who keeps saying they are a nobody is actually a self-obsessed person). The thing we would remember from meeting a truly gospel-humble person is how much they seemed to be totally interested in us. Because the essence of gospel-humility is not thinking more of myself or thinking less of myself, it is thinking of myself less...

Gospel-humility is not needing to think about myself. Not needing to connect things with myself. It is an end to thoughts such as, 'I'm in this room with these people, does that make me look good? Do I want to be here?' True gospel-humility means I stop connecting every experience, every conversation, with myself. In fact, I stop thinking about myself. The freedom of self-forgetfulness. The blessed rest that only self-forgetfulness brings."

Tim Keller, *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness*



In what ways are your gifts/talents currently being used for you instead of others?

In what ways are your gifts/ talents currently being used for you instead of others?

Where is God inviting you to serve with the self-forgetfulness purchased for you on the cross?