

Matthew 20:1-16

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How The Kingdom of God Works

WORK IN GOD'S KINGDOM: GENEROSITY



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GOD'S NOT ACTUALLY A COMMUNIST, HE'S JUST GENEROUS



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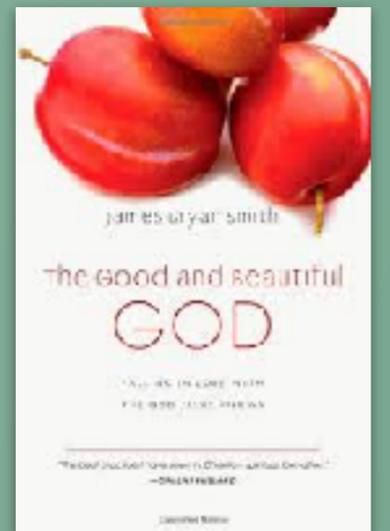
The background is a light green color with a subtle pattern of floral and gear motifs. On the left side, there are detailed line drawings of various plants and flowers. On the right side, there are faint, larger-scale gear shapes and floral patterns.

I. The World's Economy: You Got To Earn It

A. Just how our world works

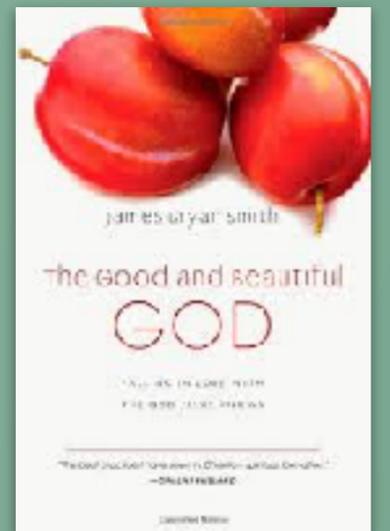
When every person in every situation in every day of our lives treats us on the basis of how we look, act and perform, it is difficult not to project that onto God. After all, God is bigger than our parents, more aware than our authority figures and sees more of us than our closest friends do.

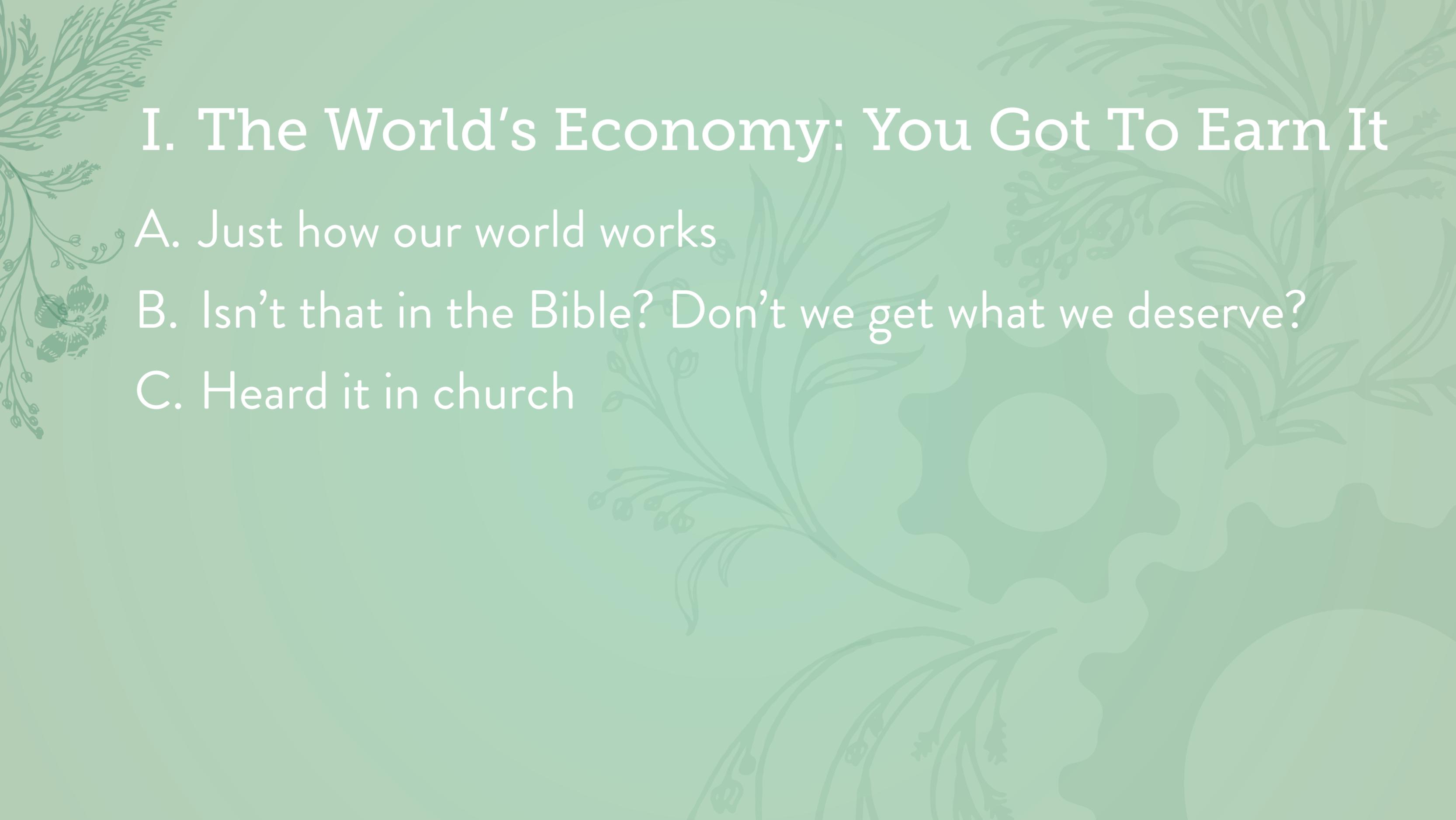
James Bryan Smith: The Good and Beautiful God



Therefore the all-seeing, all knowing God is aware of every bad thing we have ever thought or done. If God were our parent, he would withhold his love . . . If God were our teacher, we would get an F . . . If God were our judge, the verdict would be “Guilty as charged.” Guilt, fear, shame and the hunger for acceptance become the primary motivators in our performance-based culture.

James Bryan Smith: The Good and Beautiful God



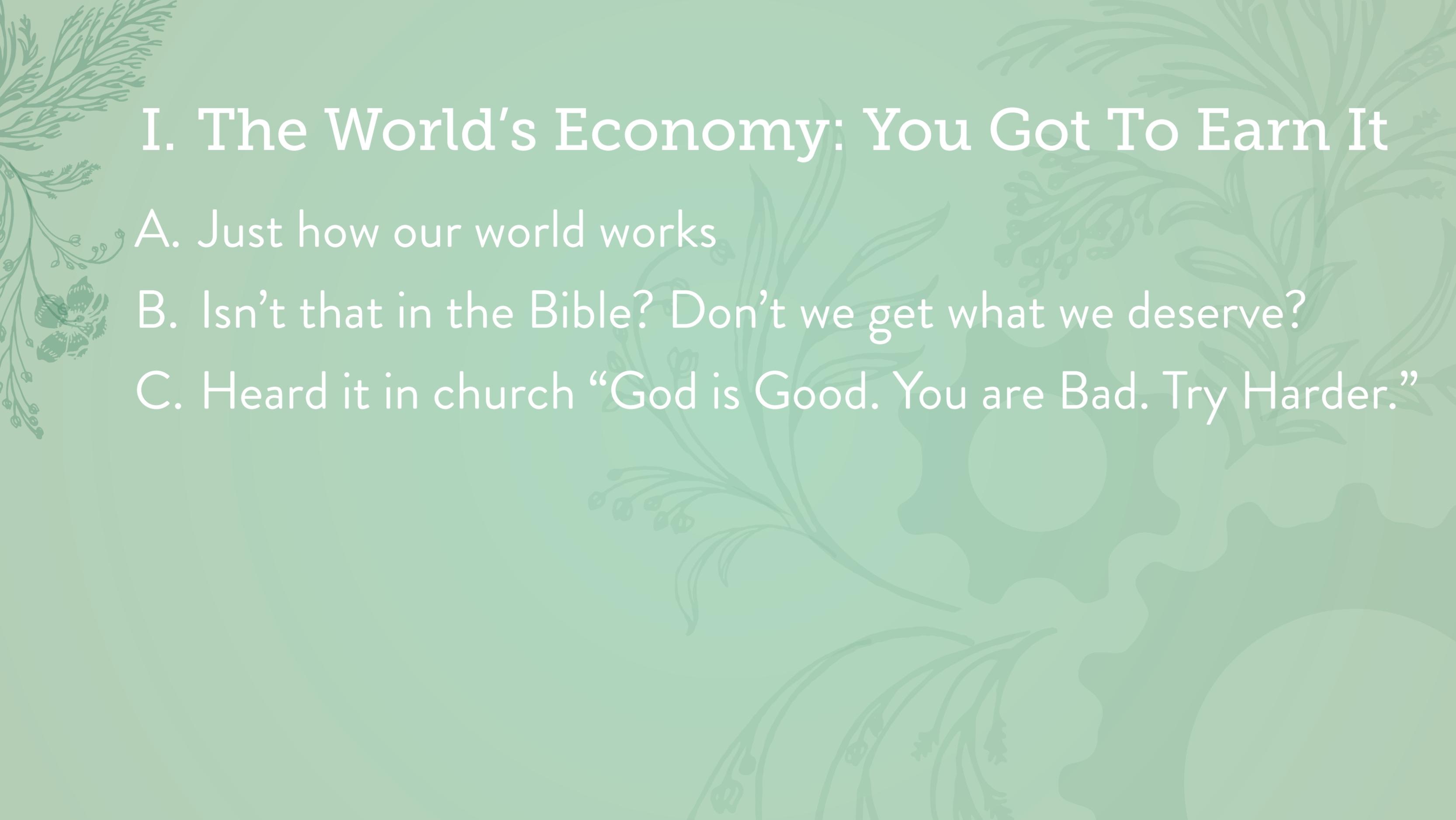
The background features a light green color with faint, stylized illustrations of various plants and gears. On the left side, there are detailed drawings of flowers and leaves. On the right side, there are large, semi-transparent gear shapes. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

I. The World's Economy: You Got To Earn It

A. Just how our world works

B. Isn't that in the Bible? Don't we get what we deserve?

C. Heard it in church



I. The World's Economy: You Got To Earn It

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C. Heard it in church "God is Good. You are Bad. Try Harder."

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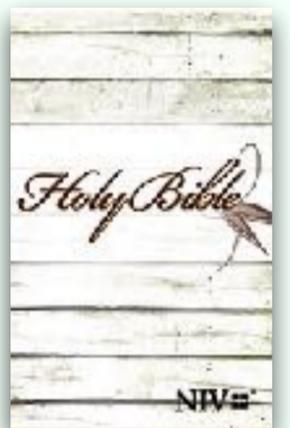


The background is a light green color with a repeating pattern of stylized floral and gear motifs. The floral elements include various leaves and small flowers, while the gear motifs are large, dark green, and interlocking. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

II. The Kingdom Economy: Runs On Generosity

“He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’”

Matthew 20:4



The background features a light green color with faint, stylized illustrations of various plants and flowers on the left and right sides. In the lower right quadrant, there are several interlocking gears of varying sizes, rendered in a slightly darker shade of green. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern with a natural, organic feel.

II. The Kingdom Economy: Runs On Generosity

A. You're not getting paid for this deal

The point of the story is that what people get from having served God and his kingdom is not, actually, a 'wage' at all. It's not, strictly, a reward for work done. God doesn't make contracts with us, as if we could bargain or negotiate for a better deal. He makes covenants, in which he promises us everything and asks of us everything in return. When he keeps his promises, he is not rewarding us for effort, but doing what comes naturally to his overflowing generosity.

N.T. Wright



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II. The Kingdom Economy: Runs On Generosity

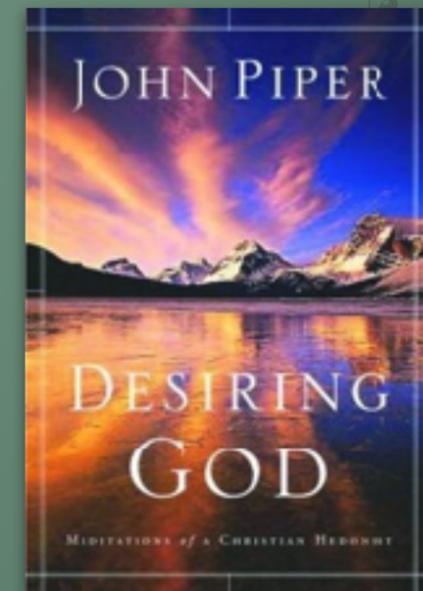
- A. You're not getting paid for this deal
- B. God keeps his promises
- C. God gives more than what is fair

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III. Why Does God Bother Inviting Us To Work?

A. Work meets our needs

Why does God command us to worship him?



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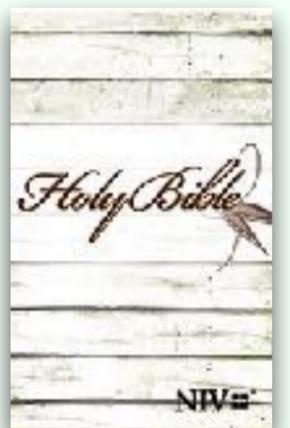
III. Why Does God Bother Inviting Us To Work?

A. Work meets our needs

B. We get to be coworkers together with God

“These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’”

Matthew 20:12

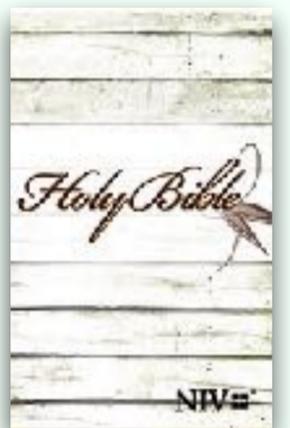


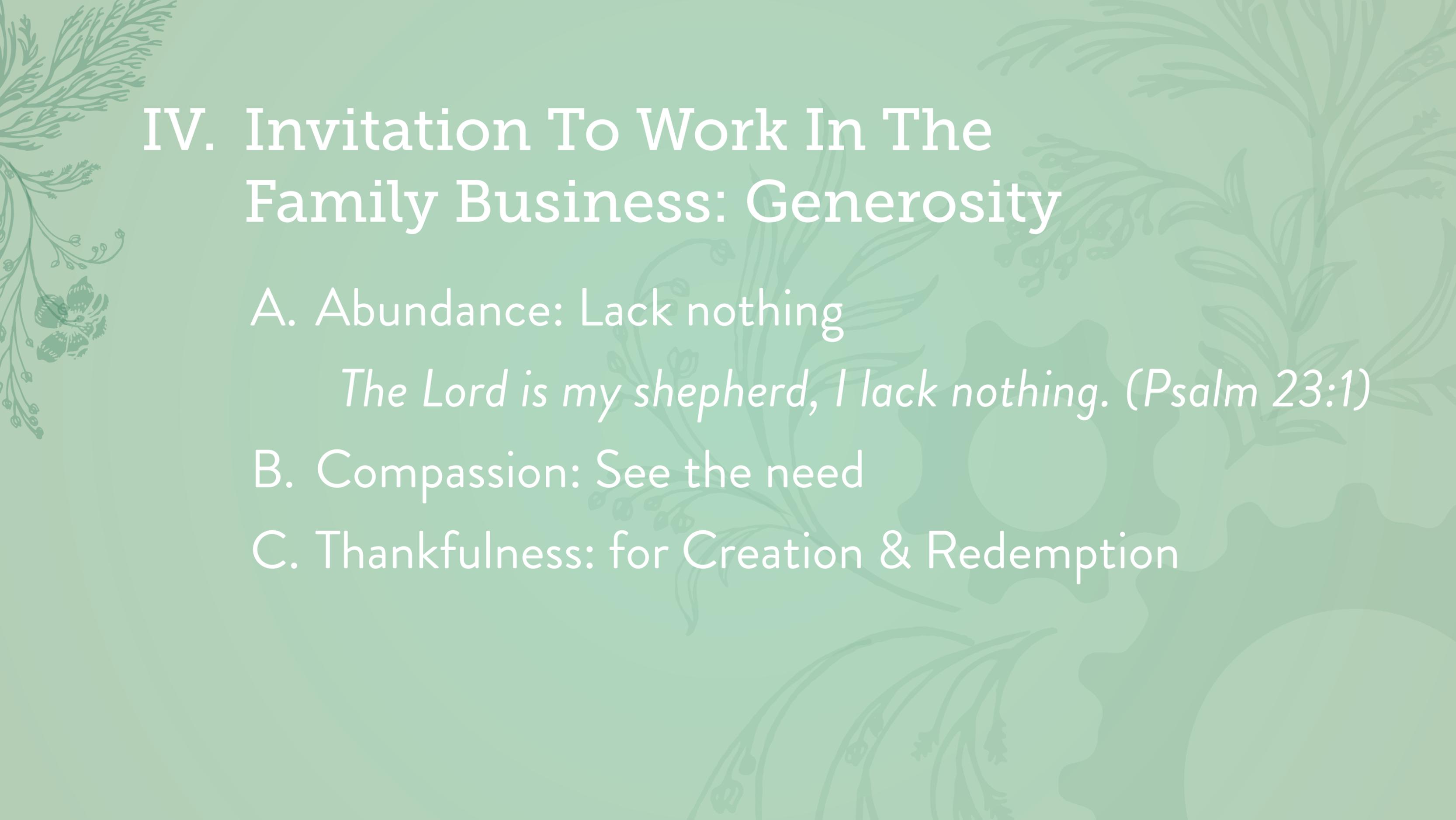


“About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’”



Matthew 20:6





IV. Invitation To Work In The Family Business: Generosity

A. Abundance: Lack nothing

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. (Psalm 23:1)

B. Compassion: See the need

C. Thankfulness: for Creation & Redemption