



The Fruit of the Gospel

Rediscovering Our Mission





Episode One

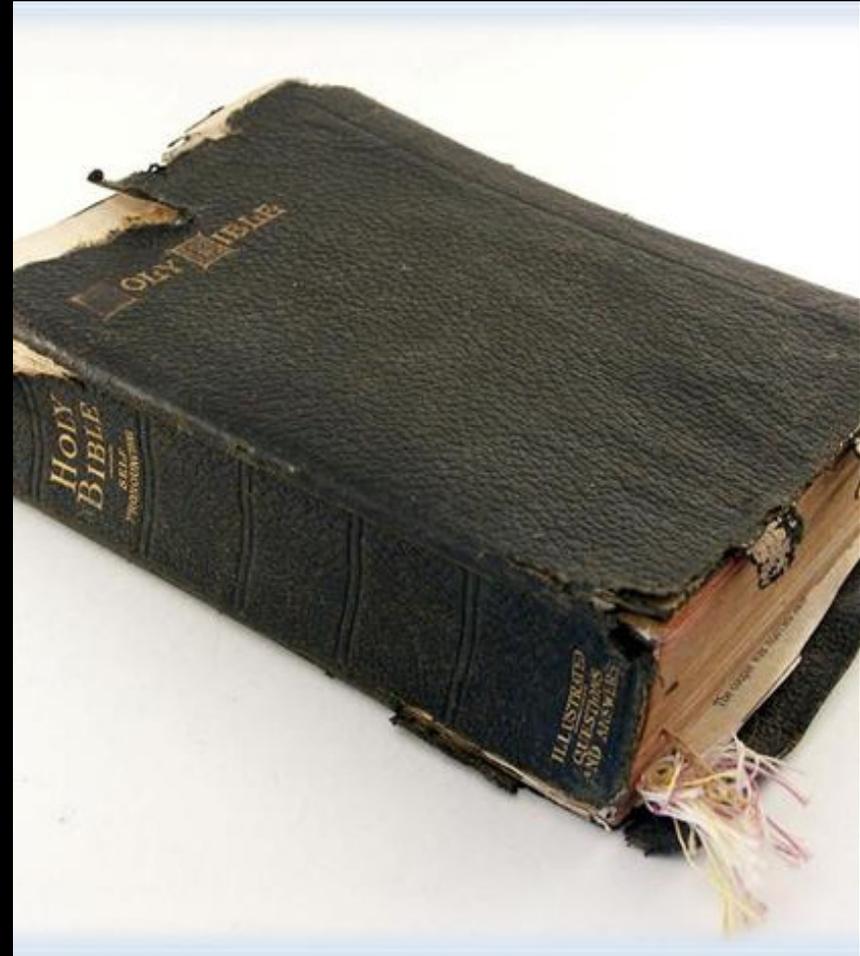
THE BIBLE AND THE GOSPEL

What is the Gospel?

- The Announcement of Jesus Christ:
- Salvation has come to all nations and all of creation.
- There is a new ruler of the world - Jesus!
- Death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – victory and coronation. All this is God's grace.
- Sinners have opportunity to repent, turn around and follow a new way and king.

How do we know?

- The Bible tells me so...
- Evangelicals and fundamentalists must therefore prove that the Bible is truth, using the standards of modern science.



How do we know?

- But, why are there so many interpretations?
- Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Wesleyan, Holiness, Pentecostal, Liberal?
- John Piper, John McArthur, Tim Keller, Watchman Nee?

Why so many?

- We bring different experiences to the bible.
- But there are core biblical truths that lay at the heart of the gospel!

Episode Two

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

The Reformed Approach

- *In God's sovereignty, we have received grace through faith (not by works or by the Law of Moses)*
- ⁸ For it is **by grace** you have been saved, **through faith**—and this is **not from yourselves**, it is the gift of God—
⁹ **not by works**, so that no one can boast.
- - *Eph. 2:8-9 (NIV)*

The Reformed Approach

- *Romans 3:21-24 (NIV)*
- ²¹ But now **apart from the law** the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.
²² This righteousness is given through **faith in Jesus Christ** to all who believe.
- There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

The Reformed Approach

- *Galatians 2:15-16 (NIV)*
- ¹⁵ “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶ know that **a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.**
- So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by **faith in Christ** and **not by the works of the law**, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

The Reformed Context

Martin Luther (1483-1548)



John Calvin (1509-1564)



The Reformed Context

- Protest Roman Catholic spiritual abuse
- Reform and Purify the church
 - *Sola gratia* – not by our own efforts
 - *Sola fidei* – not by works
 - *Sola scriptura* – not by church tradition

The Heart of the Gospel

Galatians 3:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham **might come to the Gentiles** through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Welcoming the Gentiles



Jesus, Paul, and Early Church

- Matthew 22:34-40
- ³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus, Paul, and Early Church

- ³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ [Deut. 6:5] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ [Lev. 19:18] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Love your enemies

Matthew 5:44

44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.



Peter's Conversion (Acts 10)







Peter:

“I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.”

- Acts 10:34-35 (NIV)

CIRCUMCISION?



Jerusalem Council

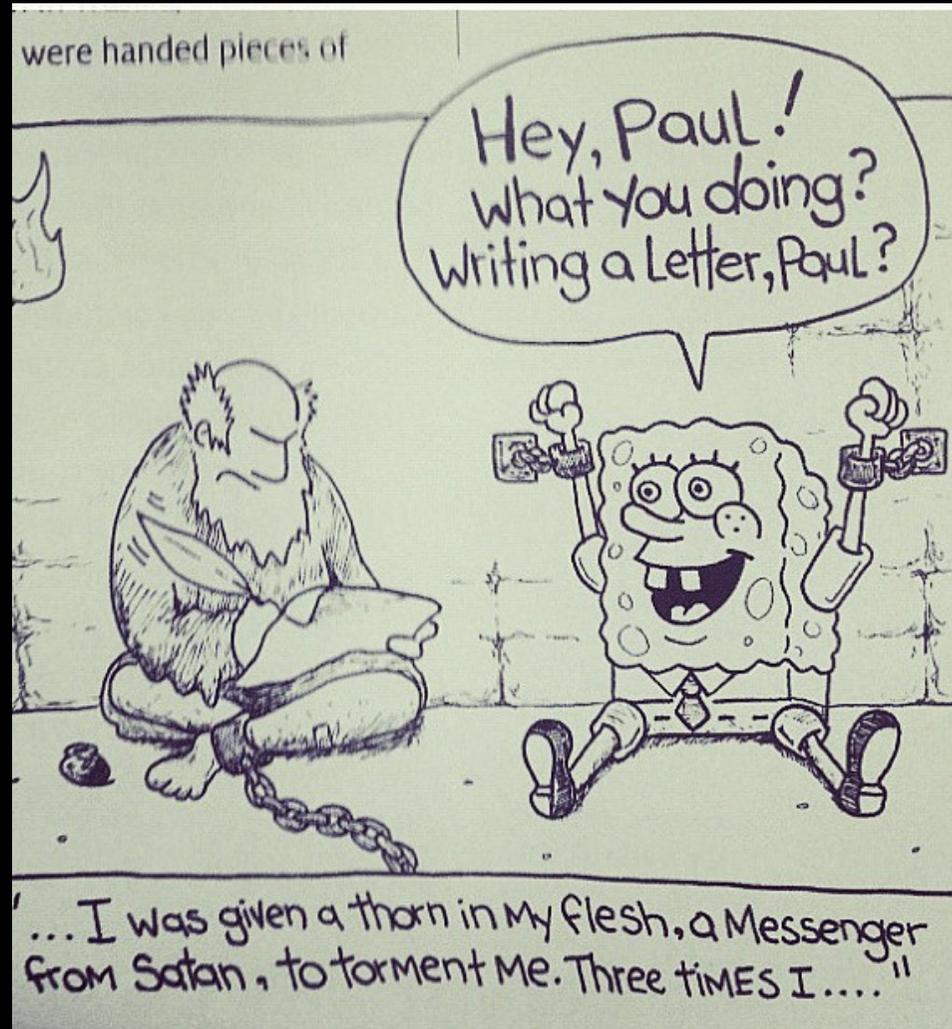


James:

“It is my judgment, therefore, that **we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.** Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.” - Acts 15:19-20 (NIV)

Paul confronts Peter & Barnabas

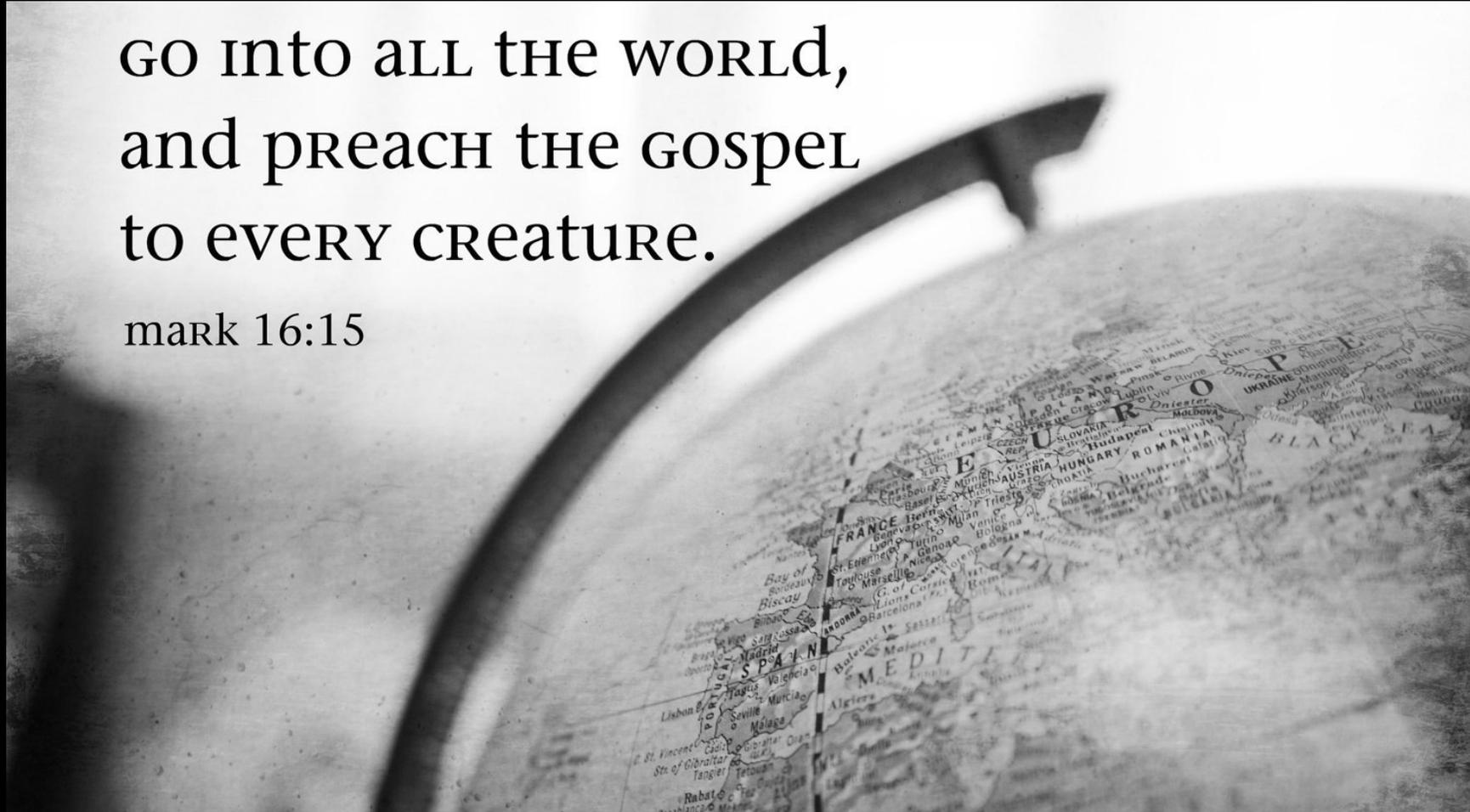
- Galatians 2:14
- When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"



Welcoming the Gentiles

GO INTO ALL THE WORLD,
and PREACH THE GOSPEL
to EVERY CREATURE.

mark 16:15



Episode Three

THE FRUIT OF THE GOSPEL



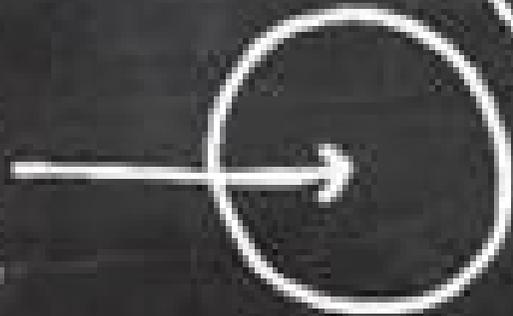
HATE

is easy

LOVE

takes courage

Your
comfort
zone

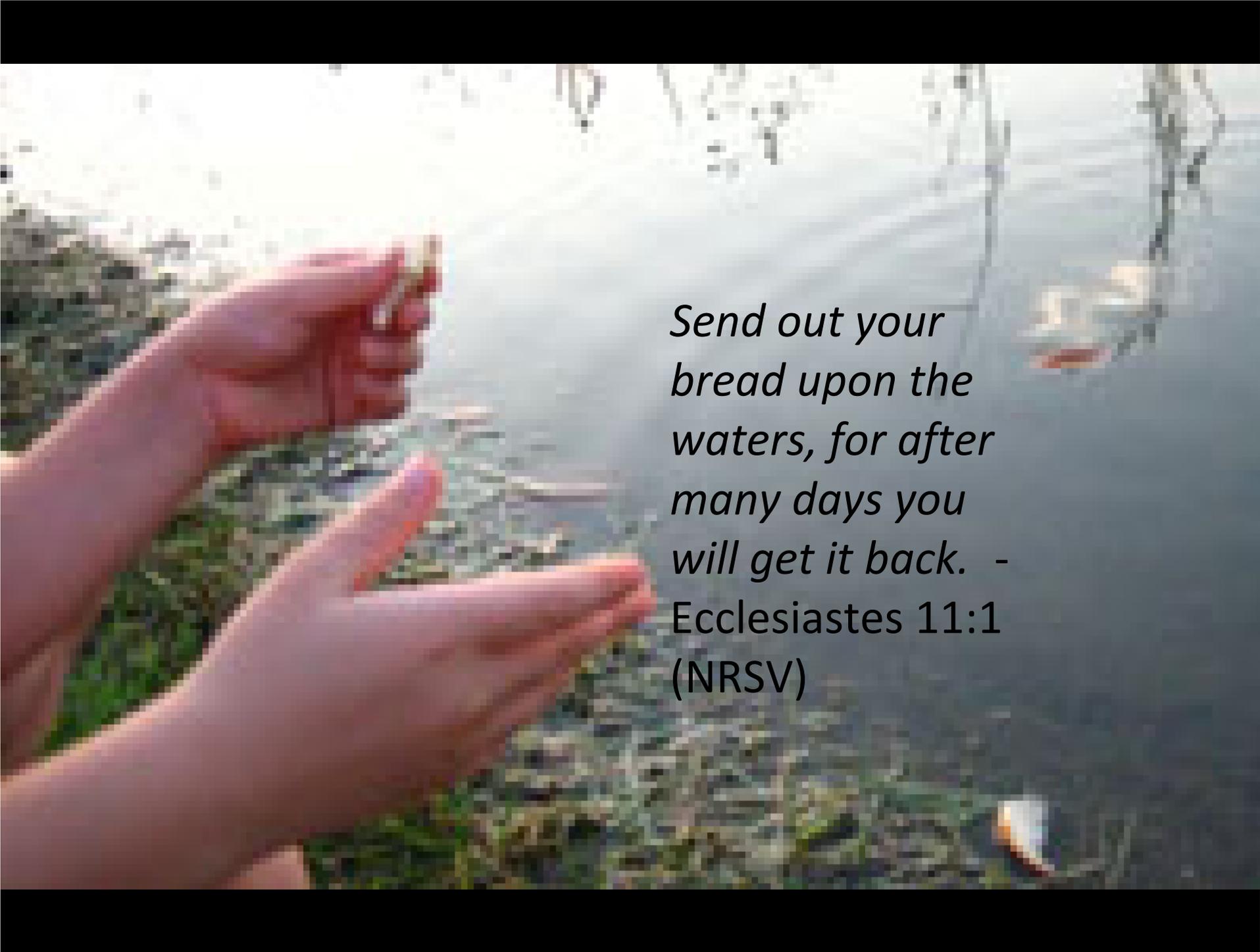


Where the
magic happens

Open mind



Open heart

A photograph showing a person's hands in the foreground, holding a small, light-colored object (possibly a piece of bread or a small fish) over a body of water. The background is a bright, hazy outdoor setting with trees and a body of water. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*Send out your
bread upon the
waters, for after
many days you
will get it back. -
Ecclesiastes 11:1
(NRSV)*

