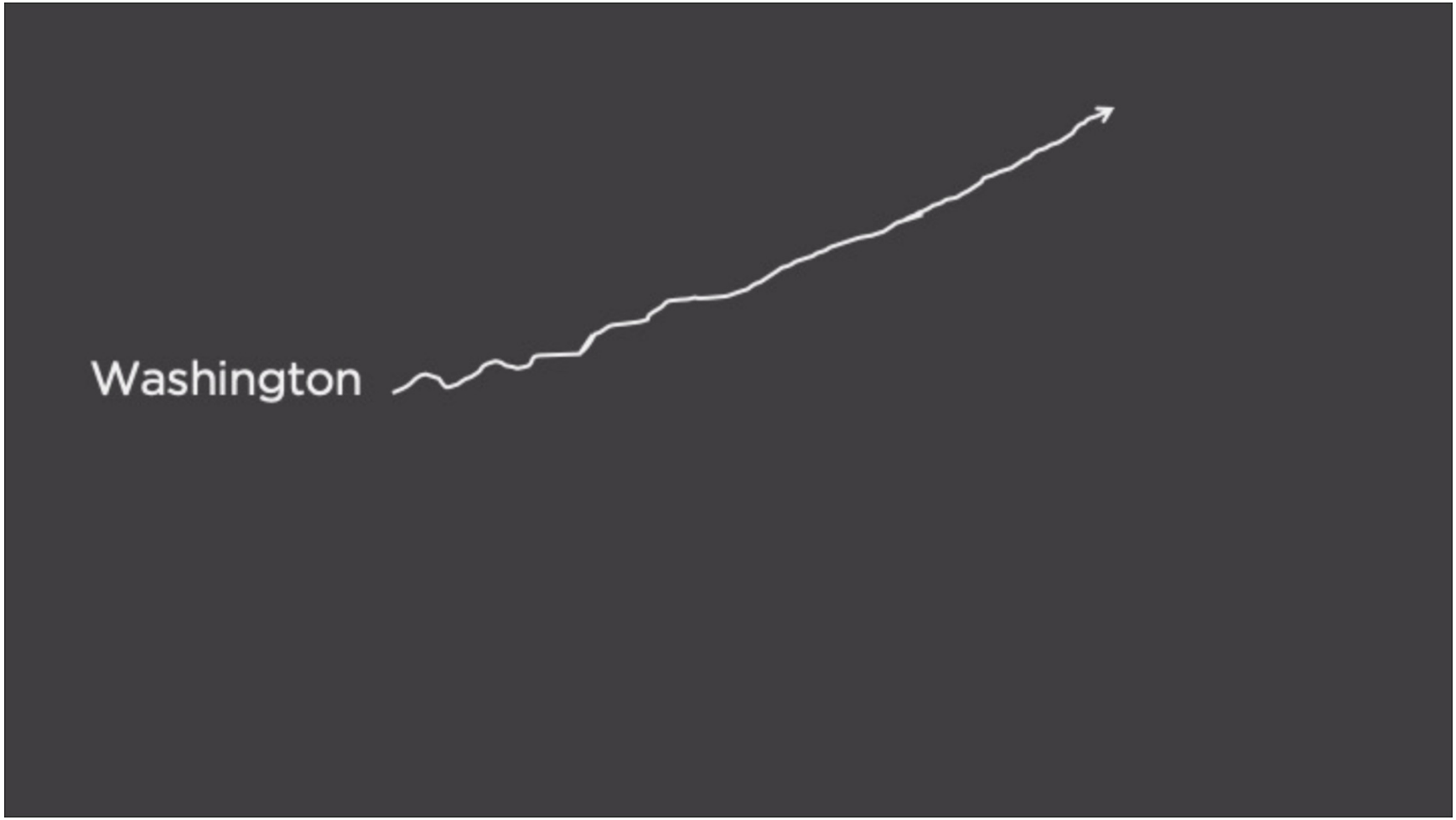
Prepare Wisely for Delay

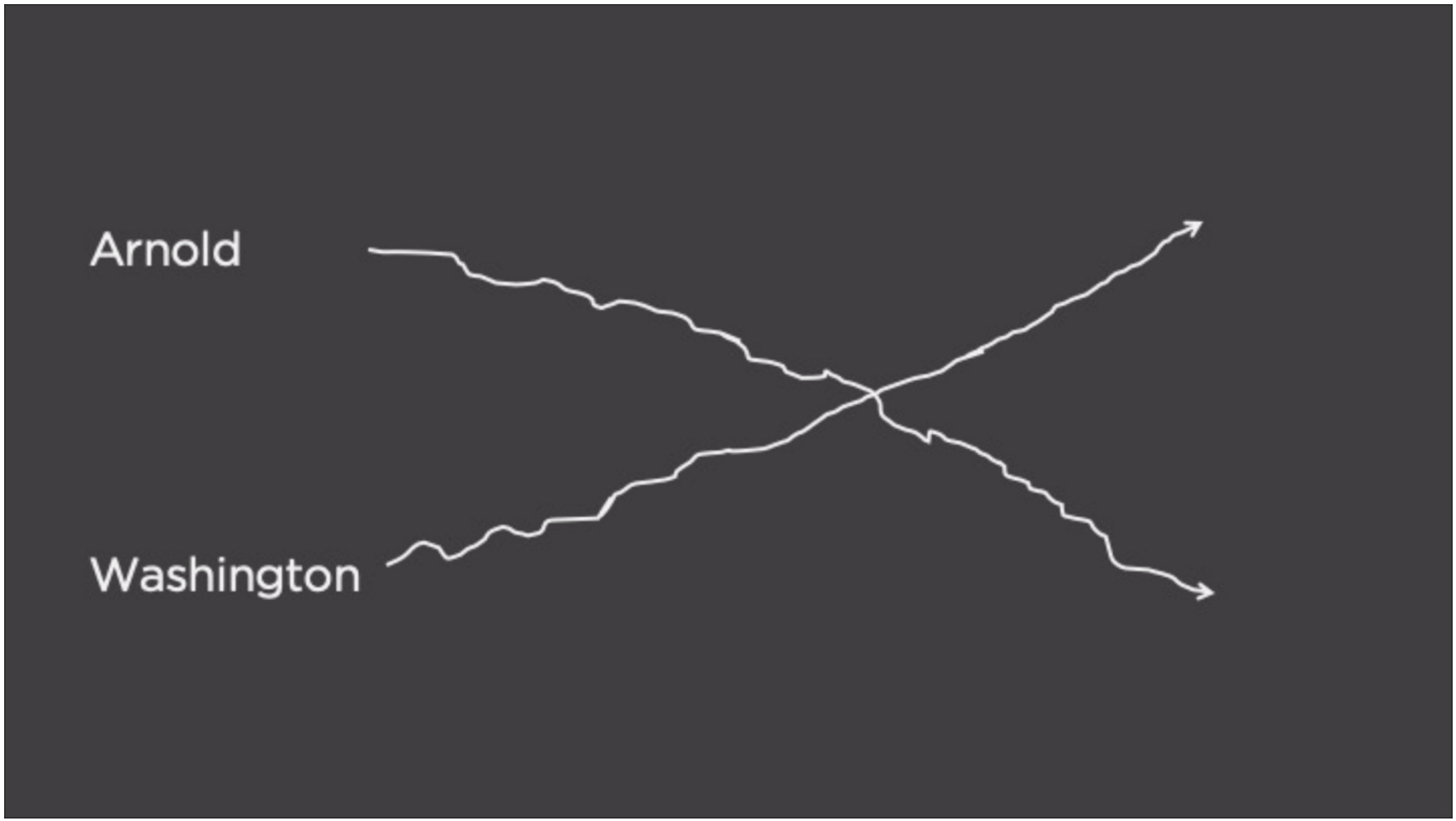
Matthew 25:1-13



George Washington Benedict Arnold


Washington


Arnold

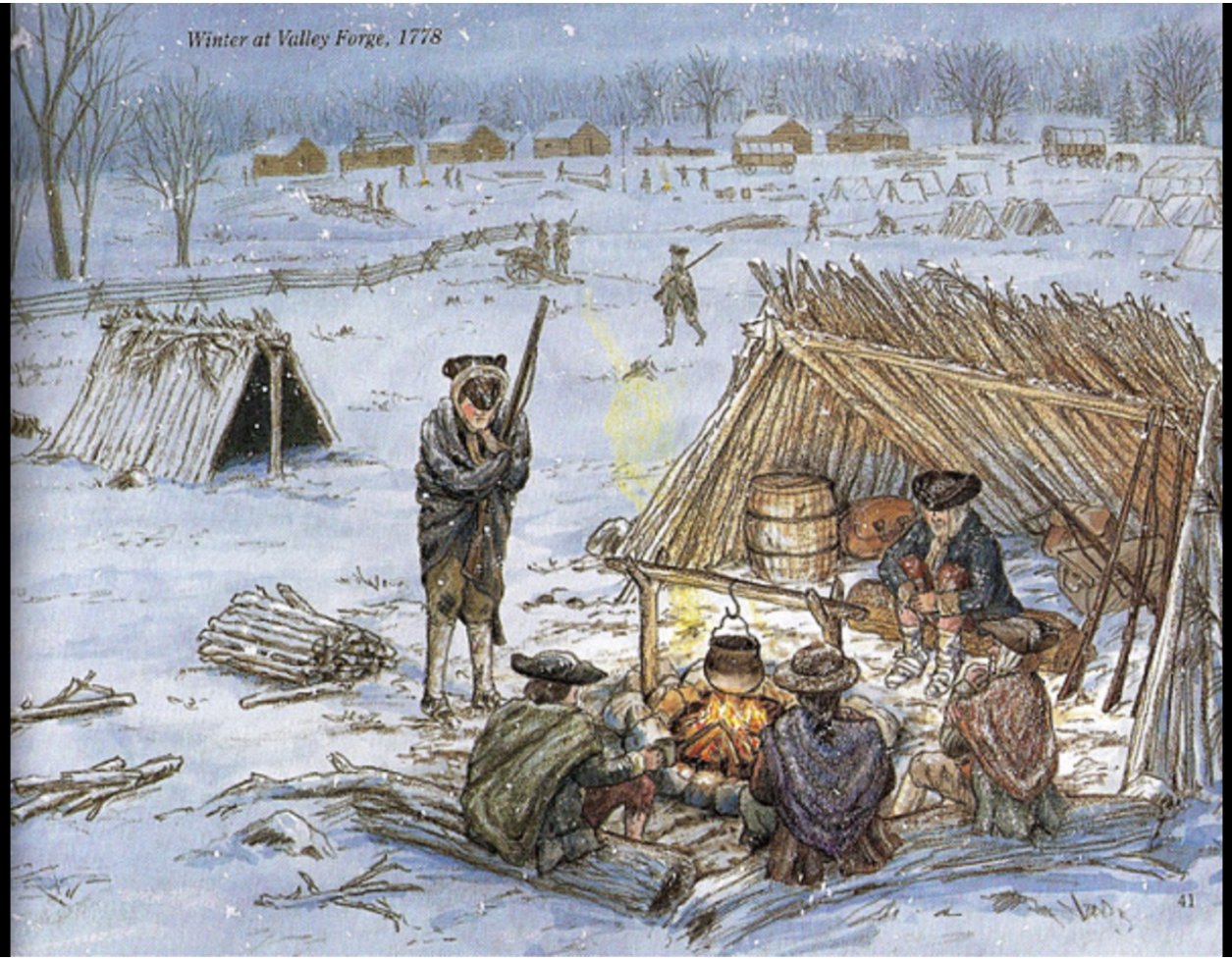

Arnold
Washington



“To have the eyes of the whole continent fixed with anxious expectation of hearing of some great event

“and to be constrained in every military operation for want of the necessary means of carrying it on.”

George Washington


Winter at Valley Forge, 1778
41

“He is very . . . impatient under his misfortunes.”

Dr. James Thacher

“As anyone who has waited for a long-anticipated letter knows, delays of this kind are not good for the soul.

“The anger and outrage that once fueled Arnold’s bravery in battle turned inward as his hatred of Gates . . . became an all-consuming passion.”

Nathaniel Philbrick

* Delay makes room for **faithlessness** or **faithfulness** to grow.

“. . . when will these things be?” (24:3)

“. . . when will these things be?” (24:3)

“. . . what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” (24:3)

In delay, we are called to . . .

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prepare **wisely** (10 virgins - 25:1-13)

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invest **courageously** (talents - 25:14-30)

In delay, we are called to . . .

prepare **wisely** (10 virgins - 25:1-13)

invest **courageously** (talents - 25:14-30)

love **sacrificially** (sheep/goats - 25:31-46)

5 of the virgins – wise – extra oil

5 of the virgins – wise – extra oil

5 of the virgins – foolish – no extra oil

“As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.” (5)

“Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.

“And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

“But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’

“And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

“Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’” (7-12)

Bridegroom = **Jesus**

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10 virgins = **professing Christians**

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5 foolish = **unprepared** (nominal Christians)

Bridegroom = **Jesus**

10 virgins = **professing Christians**

5 foolish = **unprepared** (nominal Christians)

5 wise = **prepared** (actual Christians)

“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” (13)

* Delay makes room for faithlessness or faithfulness to grow.

1. How does **faithlessness grow** in delay?

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   Delay makes space for **presumption**.

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“But if that wicked servant says to himself,
‘My master is delayed,’

1. How does **faithlessness grow** in delay?
   Delay makes space for **presumption**.

and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards," (24:48-49)

“They will say, ‘Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.’” 2 Peter 3:4

Delay makes space for presumption.

Delay makes space for **codependency**.

Delay makes space for presumption.

Delay makes space for **codependency**.

* Salvation is **non-transferrable**!

“I am speaking the truth in Christ — I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit — that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

“For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.”

Romans 9:1-3

“So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

Romans 14:12

Delay makes space for presumption.

Delay makes space for codependency.

Delay makes space for **self-reliance**.

“But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart,

“and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”

1 Samuel 13:14

“Actually, delays are great, because they often reveal the power of indwelling sin.

“We are flying high, then comes a postponement of our hopes,

“and we end up with an irritable spirit which shows an alarming degree of self-independence and reliance on human capacities.

“What we fail to see is that reliance on people, their capabilities, their keeping their promises, is a demonic faith, a cooperation in heart with the powers of darkness.

“We join the enemy, Satan, when we fail to rely on the promises of God to move on our behalf.

“In brief, our impatience often has a Devilish earthly side to it,

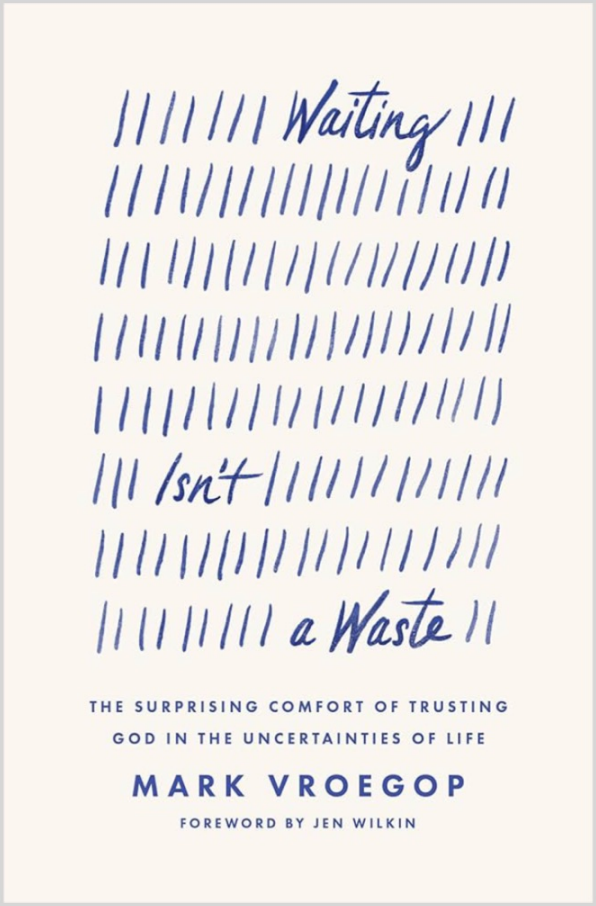
“which reveals that we have unconsciously forgotten that trusting Christ is more important than doing things for Christ.”

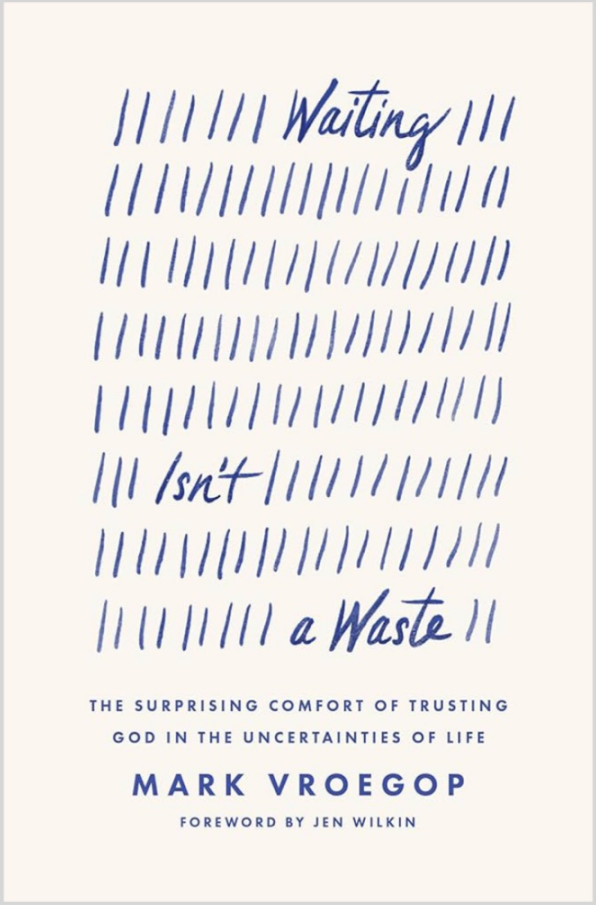
Jack Miller

2. How does **faithfulness grow** in delay?

2. How does **faithfulness grow** in delay?

   We keep transferring our trust from **self** to our **Father**.


Waiting
Isn't
a Waste
THE SURPRISING COMFORT OF TRUSTING
GOD IN THE UNCERTAINTIES OF LIFE
MARK VROEGOP
FOREWORD BY JEN WILKIN



"Waiting on God is living on what I know to be **true about God** when I don't know what's **true about my life**."

Mark Vroegop

“. . . therefore thus says the Lord GOD,
‘Behold, I am the one who has laid as a
foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone,

“‘a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:
“Whoever believes will not be in haste.”’”

Isaiah 28:16

“‘a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:
“Whoever believes will not be in haste.”’”

Isaiah 28:16

haste = panic, reckless reactivity

We keep transferring our trust from **people** to our **Father**.

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

“And let steadfastness have its full effect,
that you may be perfect and complete,
lacking in nothing.”

James 1:2-4

We keep embracing the **purifying benefits** of delay.

“Behold, I go forward, but he is not there,
and backward, but I do not perceive him;
on the left hand when he is working, I do not
behold him;

“he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.”

Job 23:8-10

“Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared;

“but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

“And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

1 John 3:2-3

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

“And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

“And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

“And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Matthew 7:24-27

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

Romans 12:1