

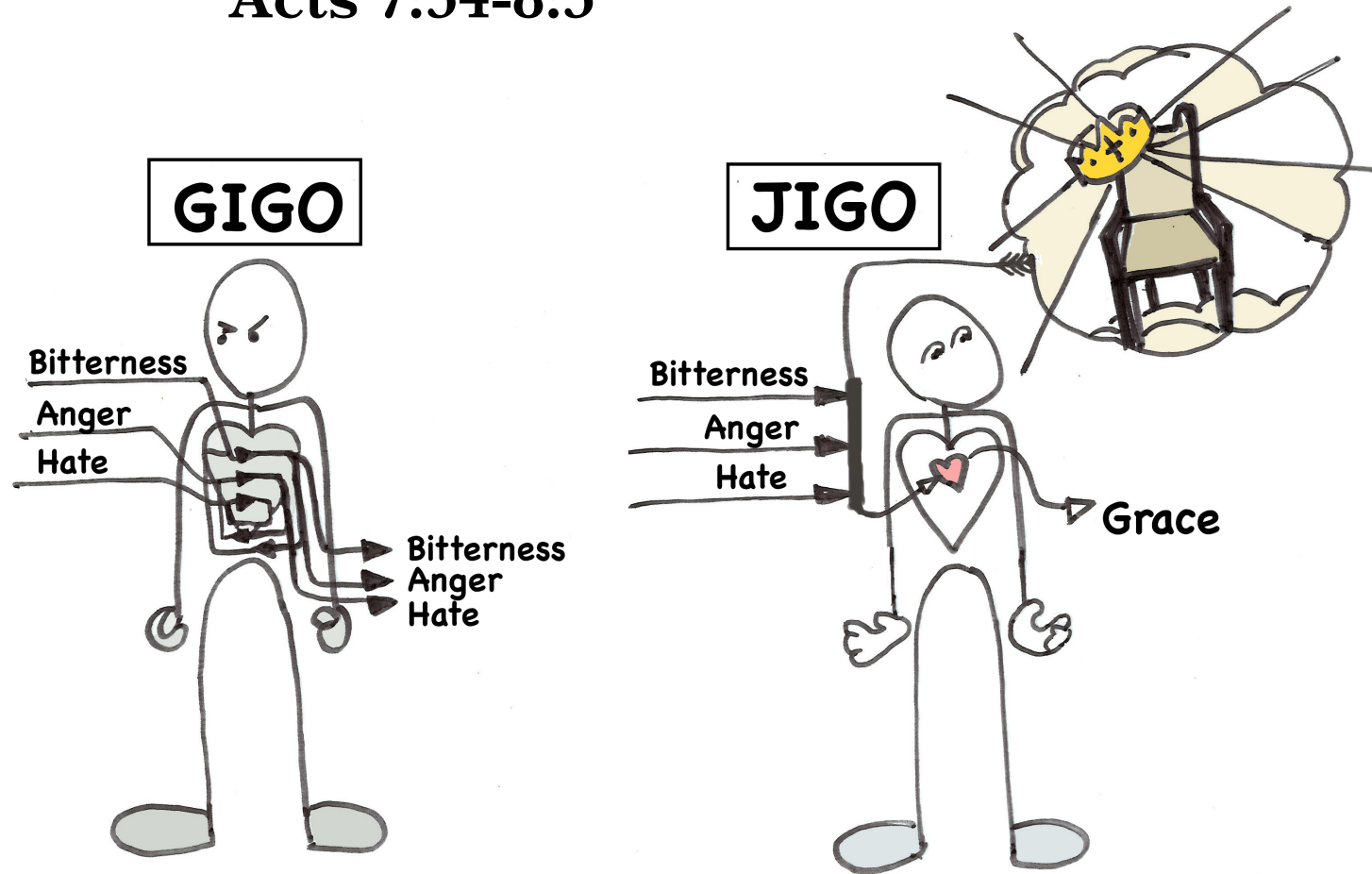
## *Being like Jesus*

- Jesus was ALWAYS...
  - Patient and kind
- Jesus NEVER...
  - Kept a record of wrongs, envied, or rejoiced in evil
  - Was self-seeking or easily angered
- When is it hard to be like Jesus?
  - Golden Rule: treat others **as you want** to be treated
  - Rust Rule: treat others **as you have been** treated

**How can you and I be more like Jesus?**

# Gazing into Heaven

Acts 7:54-8:3



Chinese: page 1777  
Spanish: page 1395  
Brown: page 1098  
Green: page 749

*Luke and Acts: 1 book in 2 volumes written by Luke*

- Luke begins with the birth of Jesus until His death and resurrection **Luke**
  - “In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that **Jesus began to do and to teach.**” *Acts 1:1*
- Luke then describes the ministry of His apostles after Jesus’ departure **Acts**
  - Luke describes what **Jesus continued to do and to teach** through His followers

## *Stephen in the book of Acts*

6:1-7: Chosen as a Jewish leader in the Christian church

- Probably: Greek-speaking and foreign born
- Doing miracles, leading, and speaking about Jesus

6:8-15: Arrested

- Charges: Rebellion against Temple and Law of Moses
- Leaders' commitment to God was in the Temple and Law

7:1-53: Stephen's "defense" speech

- God is not limited to a specific building or land
- God is not limited to the Law of Moses
- God is a living, dynamic Being in the person of Jesus Christ
- You killed God's promised "Righteous One" (Jesus)

*Acts 7:54-8:3*

54: Sanhedrin is furious

55-56: • He claimed that they were God's enemies

57-58a: • And he was not as purely Jewish as they were

58b:

59-60:

1a:

1b:

2-3:

Chinese: page 1777

Spanish: page 1395

Brown: page 1098

Green: page 749

*Acts 7:54-8:3*

54: Sanhedrin is furious

55-56: Stephen sees Jesus in glory

57-58a: • Greek idea of glory: people's good opinion

58b: • Hebrew idea of glory:

59-60: God's character and presence in visible form

1a:

1b:

2-3:

Daniel had just seen a vision of violent kingdoms  
in opposition to God and destroying people.

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a **son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

*Daniel 7:13-14*

## *Acts 7:54-8:3*

54: Sanhedrin is furious

55-56: Stephen sees Jesus in glory

57-58a: Sanhedrin responds by violent stoning

58b: • It seems that Stephen was more direct

59-60: in his claim that Jesus is God

1a: • This apparent blasphemy is much worse

1b: than saying the temple doesn't matter

2-3: • Stoning outside the city was God's rule  
for blasphemy



*Acts 7:54-8:3*

54: Sanhedrin is furious

55-56: Stephen sees Jesus in glory

57-58a: Sanhedrin responds by violent stoning

**58b:** Saul had a key role

59-60: • “Lay at the feet” is to be under one’s authority

1a:

1b:

2-3:

## *Acts 7:54-8:3*

54: Sanhedrin is furious

55-56: Stephen sees Jesus in glory

57-58a: Sanhedrin responds by violent stoning

58b: Saul had a key role

59-60: Stephen's last words like Jesus: dependence and grace

1a: • Greek word for witness: *martyrs*

1b: Like *martyr*=a person killed for their beliefs

2-3: • Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” *Luke 23:46*

• Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” *Luke 23:34*

## *Acts 7:54-8:3*

54: Sanhedrin is furious

55-56: Stephen sees Jesus in glory

57-58a: Sanhedrin responds by violent stoning

58b: Saul had a key role

59-60: Stephen's last words like Jesus: dependence and grace

1a: Saul approved of this execution

1b:

2-3:

## *Acts 7:54-8:3*

54: Sanhedrin is furious

55-56: Stephen sees Jesus in glory

57-58a: Sanhedrin responds by violent stoning

58b: Saul had a key role

59-60: Stephen's last words like Jesus: dependence and grace

1a: Saul approved of this murder

**1b:** Persecution spreads the church rather than kills it

2-3: • Movement into Judea and Samaria

- Seems that Greek-speaking Christians were more likely to have been relocated

## *Acts 7:54-8:3*

54: Sanhedrin is furious

55-56: Stephen sees Jesus in glory

57-58a: Sanhedrin responds by violent stoning

58b: Saul had a key role

59-60: Stephen's last words like Jesus: dependence and grace

1a: Saul approved of this murder

1b: Persecution spreads the church rather than kills it

**2-3: Defiance by godly men to honor Stephen**

Great persecution begins, led by Saul

## *Terrible losses became great victories*

- Stephen was a victim of terrible evil
  - He is a model of love, joy, and peace
- Church was scattered into Judea and Samaria
  - This is the next phase of Jesus' plan for the expansion of the Church: Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, **and in all Judea and Samaria**, and to the ends of the earth." *Acts 1:8*
- Saul was a powerful opponent of Christianity
  - He became perhaps the most significant Christian promoter, leader, and author

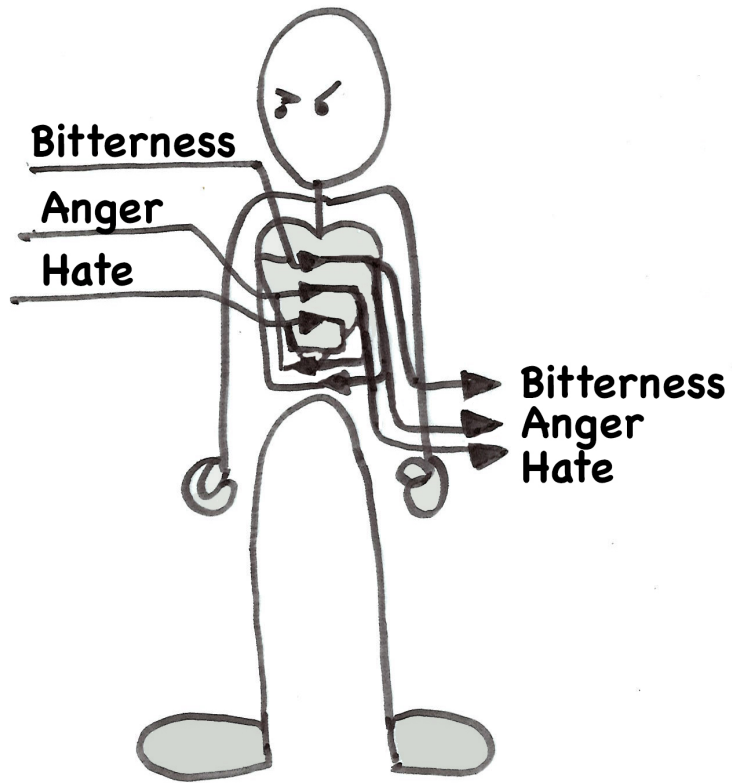
## *The Big Idea*

**When people set their hearts on Jesus,  
what was true of Jesus  
in His life and death  
will become true of His people  
in their life and death**

**RATHER THAN BECOMING LIKE THE EVIL THEY ENCOUNTER  
RATHER THAN BEING DESTROYED BY THE EVIL THEY ENCOUNTER  
THEY SHOW THE GLORY OF GOD IN A DARK PLACE**

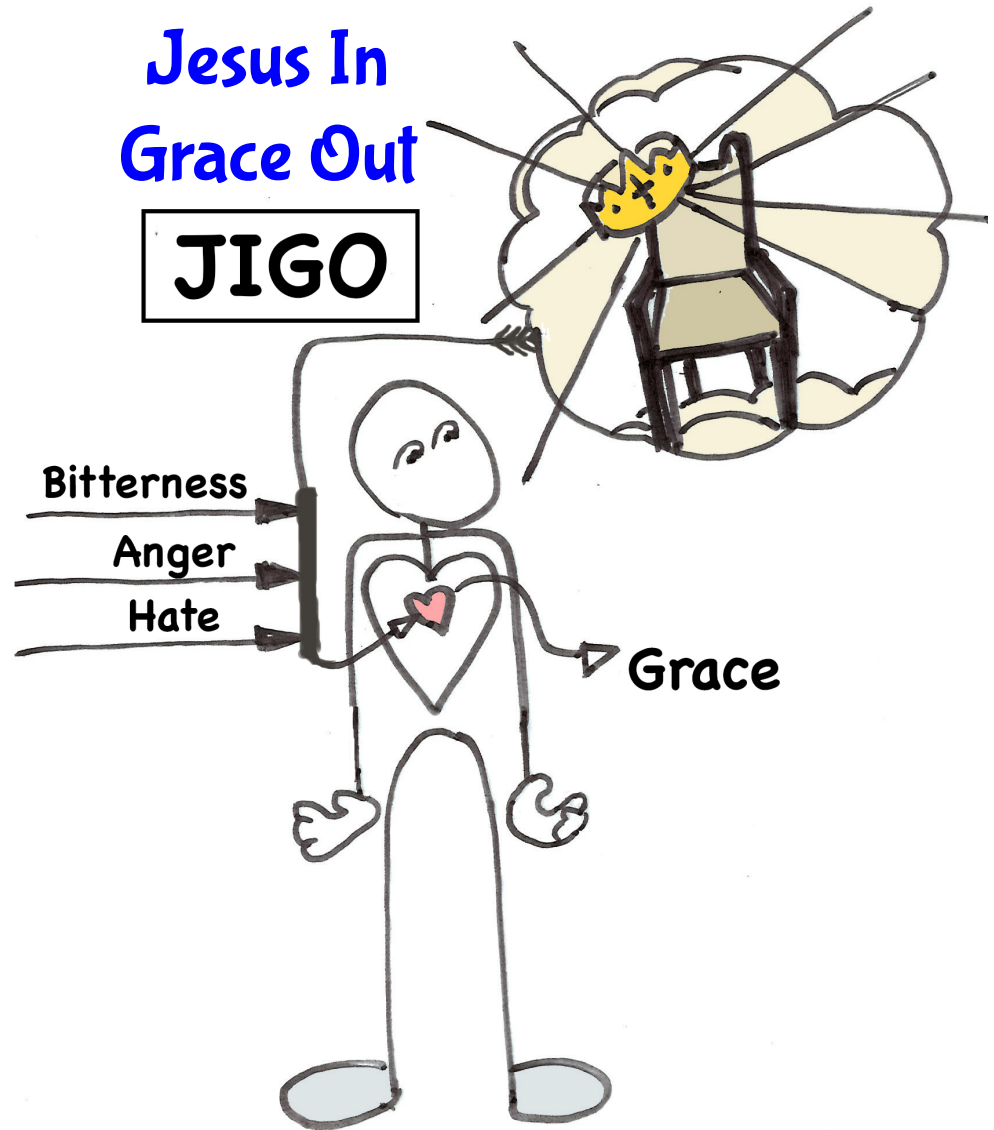
Garbage In  
Garbage Out

**GIGO**



Jesus In  
Grace Out

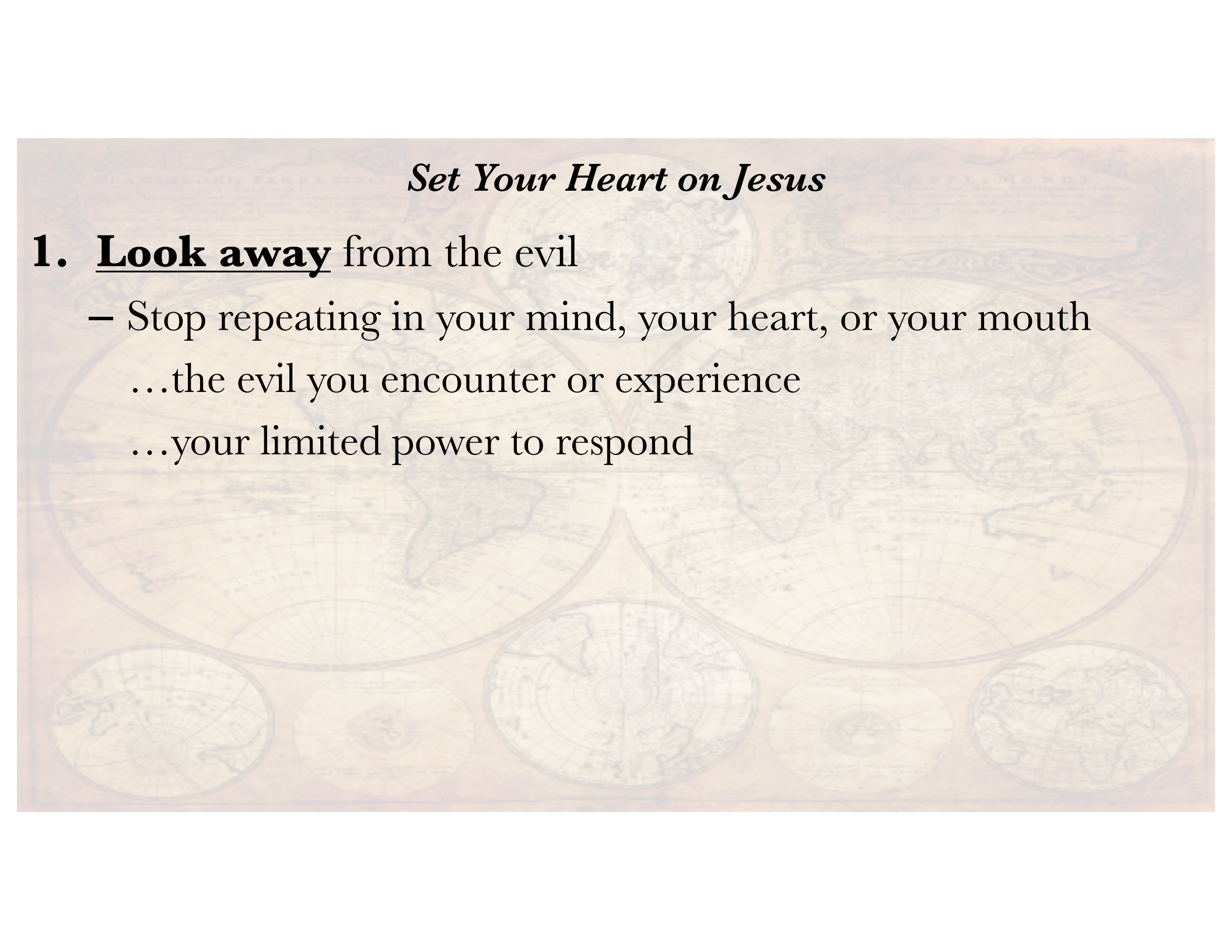
**JIGO**





## *Application*

- When you encounter evil in your own heart...
  - set your heart on Jesus
  - not on the evil you find
  - not on your own power to conquer it
- When you encounter evil around you...
  - set your heart on Jesus
  - not on the evil you find
  - not on your own power to respond to it



## *Set Your Heart on Jesus*

### **1. Look away** from the evil

- Stop repeating in your mind, your heart, or your mouth
  - ...the evil you encounter or experience
  - ...your limited power to respond

## *Set Your Heart on Jesus*

1. **Look away** from the evil
2. **Ask** God for the Spirit's presence and power
  - “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**”  
*Luke 11:13*
  - The Holy Spirit is the presence and power of God for us to show the glory of God

## *Set Your Heart on Jesus*

1. **Look away** from the evil
2. **Ask** God for the Spirit's presence and power
3. **Look at** Jesus' goodness and glory
  - Read about and '**see with your heart**' His goodness (Gospel of Mark)
  - Praise God for His glory in the ways that you aren't glorious
  - '**Seeing Jesus with your heart**' changes you *1 John 3:3*

## *Set Your Heart on Jesus*

1. **Look away** from the evil
2. **Ask** God for the Spirit's presence and power
3. **Look at** Jesus' goodness and glory
4. **Make every effort** to live like Jesus through His Spirit
  - “Make every effort to add to your faith goodness” *2 Peter 1:5*
  - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”  
*Galatians 5:22-23*

## *The Big Idea*

**When people set their hearts on Jesus,  
what was true of Jesus  
in His life and death  
will become true of His people  
in their life and death**

1. LOOK AWAY FROM EVIL

2. ASK GOD FOR HIS SPIRIT

3. LOOK AT JESUS

4. MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO LIVE LIKE HIM