



# The Well

an ordinary place  
where extraordinary  
things happen

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NEW YEAR, LESS ME



# NEW YEAR, LESS ME

## part i: the problem of selfishness

THE PROBLEM WITH RESOLUTIONS= \_\_\_\_\_

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible... All things were created through Him and for Him.” Colossians 1:15-16

IS YOUR LIFE SELF-CENTERED? OR GOD-CENTERED?  
DOES GOD SERVE YOUR PURPOSE? OR DO YOU SERVE HIS?  
WHO IS THE SUN AND WHO IS THE EARTH?

**THEME** "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to  
**VERSE:** serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

MAN LOST HIS IDENTITY AS A \_\_\_\_\_  
AND BEGAN TO SEE HIMSELF AS AN \_\_\_\_\_ .

*prosopon* = "face", upward orientation  
*in-dividuus* = "complete", inward orientation

“For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.” James 3:16

“And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, GIVE ME the portion of goods that falls to me.’” Luke 15:12

“Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never GAVE ME a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.” Luke 15:29

“Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.” Revelation 4:9-11

BECAUSE SELFISHNESS IS AT THE ROOT OF ALL PROBLEMS,  
\_\_\_\_\_ IS THE SOLUTION.

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” Matthew 16:24-25



# NEW YEAR, LESS ME

## part 2: how to be the G.O.A.T.

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” James 4:1-3

GREATNESS COMES FROM SERVING OTHERS, NOT MYSELF.

“Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.” Luke 22:24

“But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.” Matthew 23:11

MY \_\_\_\_\_ IS CONNECTED TO MY \_\_\_\_\_ .

ONE: SERVING ISN'T SOMETHING WE DO; \_\_\_\_\_ .

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10

TWO: SERVING OTHERS REQUIRES JUST ONE ABILITY: \_\_\_\_\_.

“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor, 'Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it,' when you have it with you.” Proverbs 3:27-28

### THREE: SERVING OTHERS IS \_\_\_\_\_ BOTH INTRINSICALLY AND EXTRINSICALLY.

“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.” John 12:26

“Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.” Matthew 25:34-36

“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” Matthew 25:40

IT'S BY SERVING OTHERS  
THAT WE SERVE CHRIST HIMSELF.

*“Well done, good and faithful SERVANT;  
you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.  
Enter into the joy of your Lord.” Matthew 25:21*



# NEW YEAR, LESS ME

## part 3: letting go vs. holding back

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”  
Matthew 6:19-21

YOU CAN BE GENEROUS AND NOT GODLY;  
BUT YOU CANNOT BE GODLY AND NOT GENEROUS.

ONE: BAG MINDSET: IT'S \_\_\_\_\_

“Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?” Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: “Consider your ways! You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.” Haggai 1:4-6

“IT'S ALL MINE.”

TWO: BASKET MINDSET: I HAVE \_\_\_\_\_ ENOUGH

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 19:9-10

“WILLING TO SHARE”

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38

“There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.” Proverbs 11:24-25

### THREE: BARN MINDSET: GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_ .

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” Proverbs 3:9-10

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain...But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” 1 Timothy 6:6-10

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:10

IT'S NOT SO MUCH ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU'RE GIVING,  
BUT RATHER HOW MUCH YOU'RE HOLDING BACK.



# NEW YEAR, LESS ME

## part 4: seeking purpose, not passion

*What if the prize is in the PROCESS?*

*What if the reward is on the ROUTE?*

*What if the win is in the WORK?*

**"WHATEVER YOU DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD."**

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible...All things were created through Him and for Him."  
Colossians 1:16

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10

SEEK GOD-CENTERED \_\_\_\_\_ ,

NOT SELF-CENTERED \_\_\_\_\_

"From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches."  
2 Corinthians 11:24-28

"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20:24



PURPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ PASSION

ASK YOURSELF:

HOW CAN I \_\_\_\_\_

AS I \_\_\_\_\_?

"We committed ourselves to spend our life fasting till evening with many prayers. When each of us had a son, whenever one of them cry, any one of us would carry and nurse him, even if he was not her own son. We are in one living arrangement, the unity in opinion is our model, and our husbands work is shepherding sheep. We are poor and only have our daily bread and what is left over we give it to the poor and the needy."

*Excerpt from "The Departure of St. Macarius", Coptic Orthodox Synaxarium.*

"For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." Romans 14:7-8

"AND WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT **HEARTILY**, AS TO THE LORD AND NOT TO MEN, KNOWING THAT FROM THE LORD YOU WILL RECEIVE THE REWARD OF THE INHERITANCE; FOR YOU SERVE THE LORD CHRIST." COLOSSIANS 3:23-24



# NEW YEAR, LESS ME

## part 5: the selfless church

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. *Mark 10:45*

### MAIN IDEA

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS AT ITS MOST \_\_\_\_\_  
WHEN IT IS MOST FOCUSED ON THOSE \_\_\_\_\_ OF IT.

IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_ OF  
WHAT WE BELIEVE ARE ENVOIOUS OF HOW WELL WE TREAT EACH  
OTHER AND AMAZED AT HOW WELL WE TREAT THEM.

By this everyone will know you that are my disciples, if you love one another. *John 13:35*

### THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SELFLESS CHURCH:

ONE: PASSIONATE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THOSE MOST IN NEED

Do you not see the timeworn remnants of walls that dot the city like so many watchtowers? How many poor people were there in the city, who were ignored by the rich of that day on account of their efforts to construct these walls? *St. Basil the Great*

Whoever has the ability to remedy the suffering of others, but chooses rather to withhold aid out of selfish motives, may properly be judged the equivalent of a murder. *St. Basil the Great*

Give but a little and you will gain much. Undo the primal sin by sharing your food. Just as Adam transmitted sin by eating wrongfully, so we wipe away the treacherous food when we remedy the need and hunger of our brothers and sisters. *St. Basil the Great*

## TWO: \_\_\_\_\_ THAT HURTS

Had you clothed the naked, given your bread to the hungry, had your door open to every stranger, been a parent to the orphan, made the suffering of every helpless person your own, what money would you have left, of which to grieve? *St. John Chrysostom*

They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor. Their righteousness endures forever. *Psalms 112:9*

## THREE: \_\_\_\_\_ WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED

The most \_\_\_\_\_ thing you can do for a person in need is love them with no strings attached

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. *Romans 13:8*

“I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting, and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.” *Pope Francis*

# STSA MINISTRIES

BRING AN ANCIENT FAITH  
TO YOUR MODERN WORLD

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STSA Church was established in April 2012 with a mission to "bring an ancient faith to a modern world." We attempt to do that by presenting the depth and richness of our Orthodox Christian faith, in a way that's relevant and applicable to life in the 21st century.

STSA MINISTRIES IS A  
COMMUNITY OF **RESOURCES**  
**INSPIRATION**, AND **LEARNING**  
DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE  
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The only materials you'll find on our site, [stsaministries.org](https://stsaministries.org), are ones that we personally use at STSA Church and have been using for years. Our staff and volunteers have spent years researching, testing, and refining the content and we pray that they'll be as helpful to you as they have been to us. Our goal is to continuously develop new materials. Subscribe at [stsaministries.org](https://stsaministries.org) to receive monthly email updates as additional resources are developed and released.

- **Membership Group Package**
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