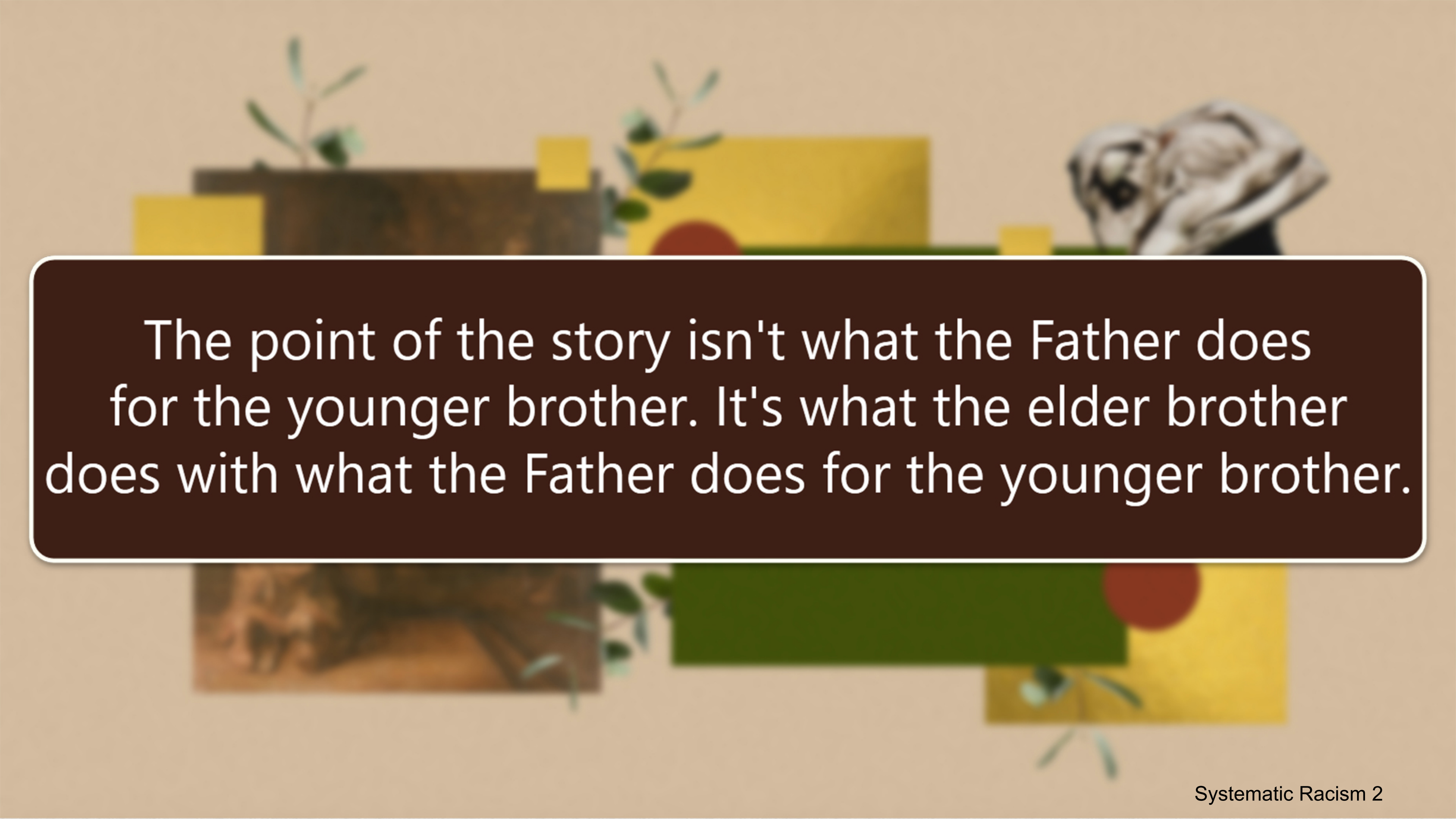




# PRODIGAL

Systematic Racism

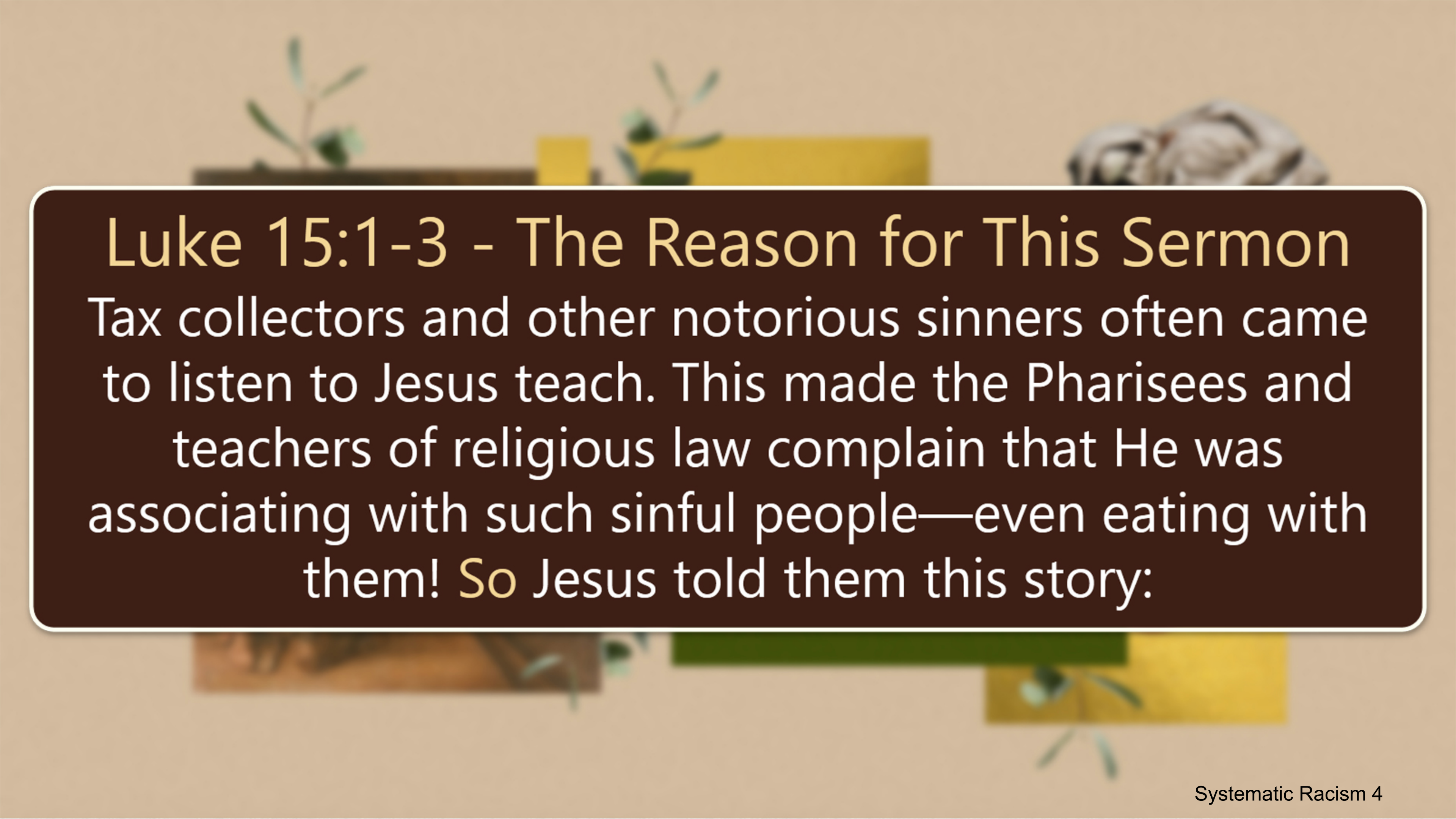




The point of the story isn't what the Father does for the younger brother. It's what the elder brother does with what the Father does for the younger brother.

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- Luke 15:4-7 - The Lost Sheep
  - Luke 15:8-10 - The Lost Coin
  - Luke 15:11-32 - The Lost Son





**Luke 15:1-3 - The Reason for This Sermon**  
Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that He was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them! **So** Jesus told them this story:



## Luke 15:25-32

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, and he asked one of the servants what was going on. 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.' The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in."



## Luke 15:25-32

"His father came out and begged him, but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!'"



## Luke 15:25-32

"His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!'"



Elder Brother Spirit

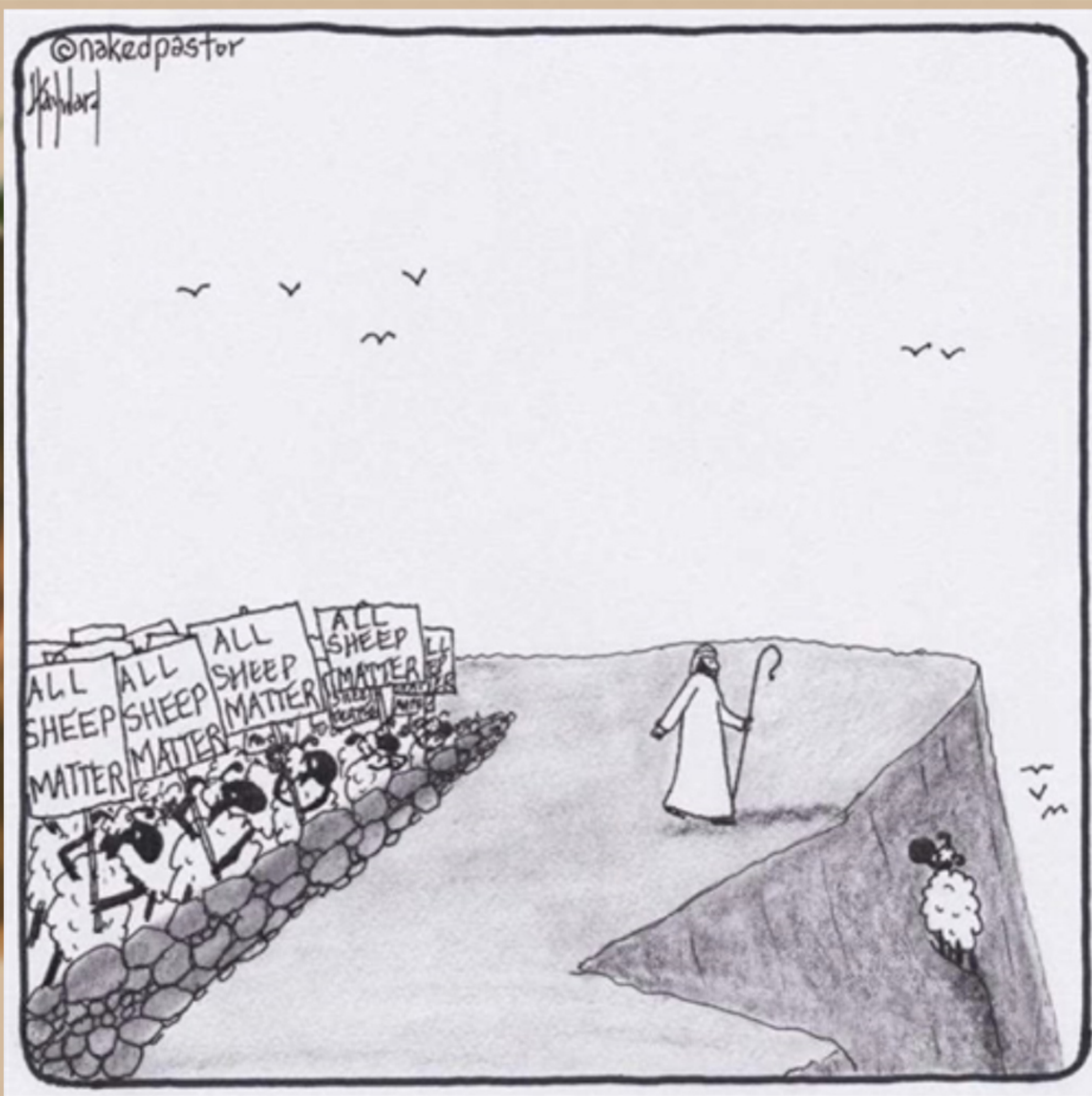
Self-Righteous-Holier-Than-Thou

Stubbornness

Outrage

Superiority







The background features a collage of various elements. On the left, there are two potted plants with green leaves. In the center, there are several overlapping rectangular blocks in yellow, green, and brown. On the right, there is a small, crumpled piece of white fabric or paper. The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic.

Jesus is for:  
Spiritual **AND** Social Justice  
Spiritually Lost **AND** Socially Marginalized



## Luke 4:18-19

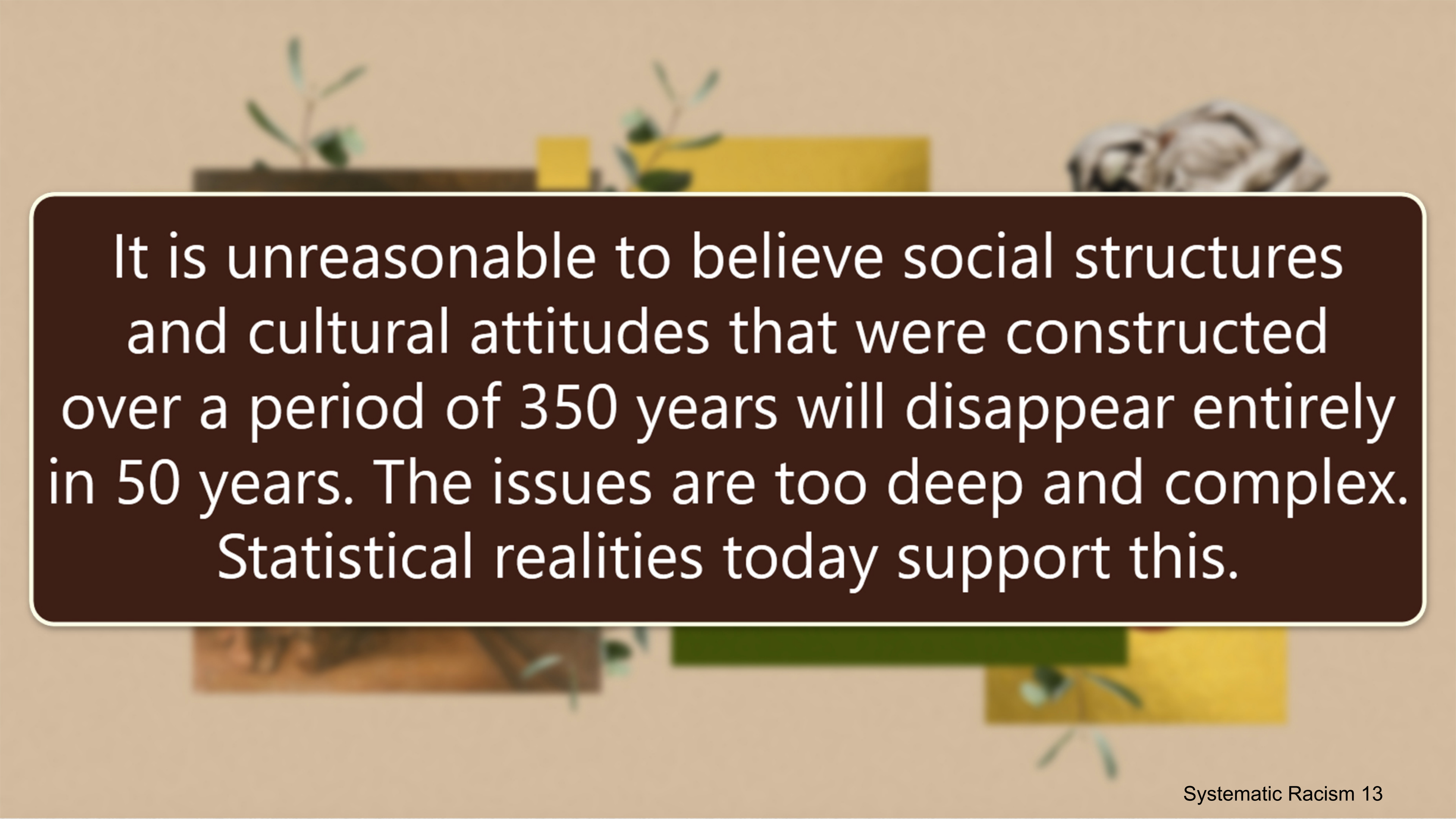
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, for He has anointed Me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."



## Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of an indoor setting. It features several potted plants with green leaves, some of which are in the foreground and others in the background. There are also some colorful rectangular blocks or containers in shades of yellow, green, and brown scattered around the plants. The overall lighting is warm and soft.

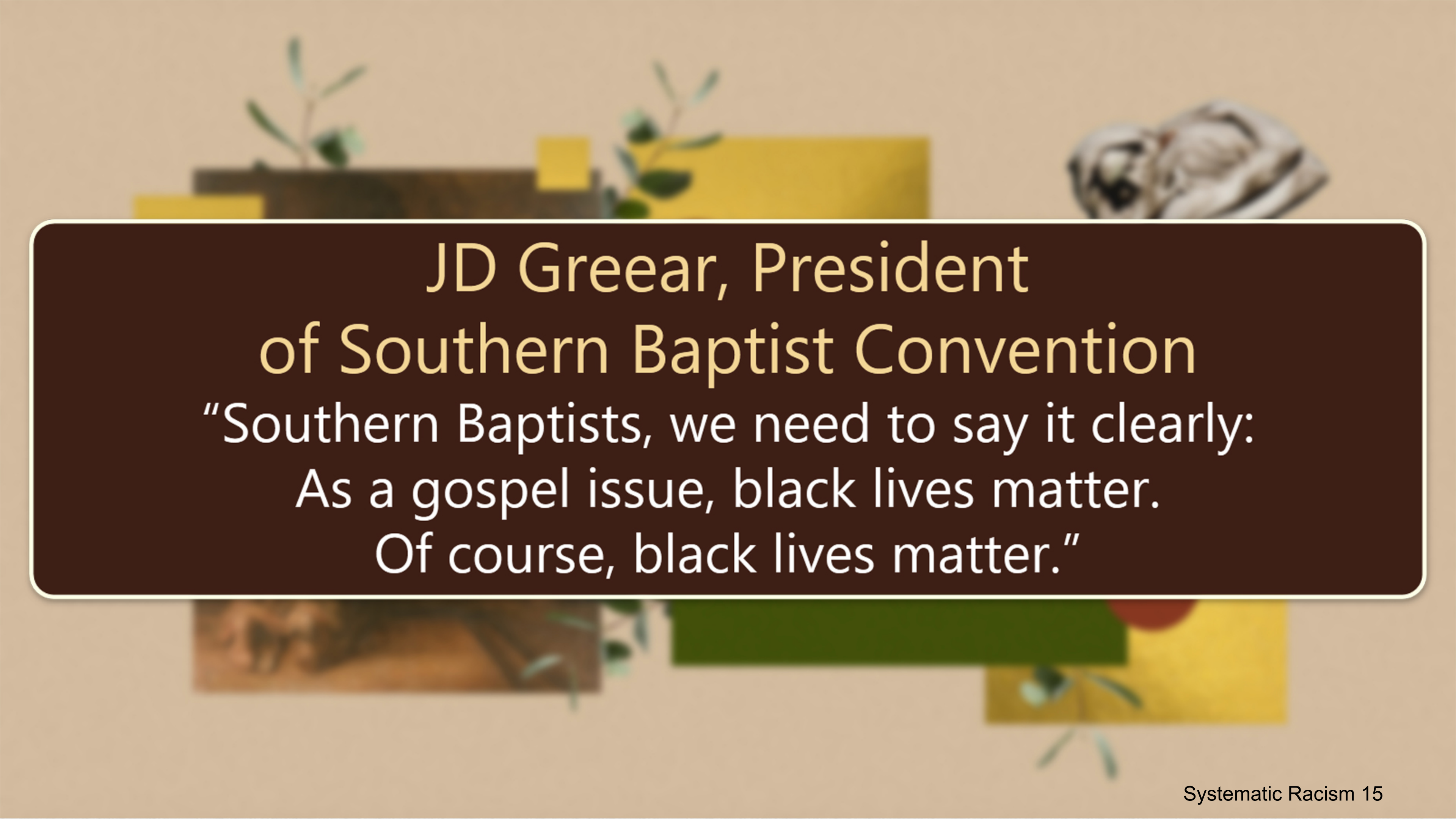
It is unreasonable to believe social structures and cultural attitudes that were constructed over a period of 350 years will disappear entirely in 50 years. The issues are too deep and complex. Statistical realities today support this.



## US Conference of Catholic Bishops

"Today's continuing inequalities in education, housing, employment, wealth, and representation in leadership positions are rooted in our country's shameful history of slavery and systemic racism."



The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of an indoor space. It features several green plants in pots, some of which are on a yellow surface. A white, crumpled object, possibly a piece of fabric or paper, is visible in the upper right corner. The overall lighting is soft and warm.

JD Greear, President  
of Southern Baptist Convention  
"Southern Baptists, we need to say it clearly:  
As a gospel issue, black lives matter.  
Of course, black lives matter."





# Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, Anglican Church

“Systemic racism continues to cause incalculable harm  
across the world.”



The background of the slide is a collage of various elements. At the top, there are two small potted plants with green leaves. Below them are several overlapping rectangular blocks in shades of yellow, green, and brown. On the right side, there is a small, crumpled piece of white fabric or paper. The overall aesthetic is soft and artistic.

## United Methodist Church

"There is more than one pandemic ravaging Minnesota and our country at this time. In addition to fighting COVID-19, we are besieged by a pandemic of racism..."



## Lutheran Church

“We weep for George Floyd, for his family and loved ones because he was robbed of life. We weep for our nation. We weep for those across our nation who believe their only recourse is destruction. We weep for police officers everywhere, who carry out their honorable vocations with courage and goodwill but find their task infinitely more challenging and dangerous in the wake of the sad events in Minneapolis....





## Lutheran Church

We plead for rational and unifying policies that will end injustices and address social breakdown, lack of economic access, and other factors that fuel anger, hatred and dissension."





## Joint statement by Mormons and NAACP:

“We likewise call on government, business and educational leaders at every level to review processes, laws, and organizational attitudes regarding racism and root them out once and for all.”



## Bryan Houston, Hillsong Church

"Hillsong Church is opposed to racism, and we believe black lives matter. The needless and tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and the much deeper systemic issues towards African American people that his death has highlighted must lead to radical and permanent change."





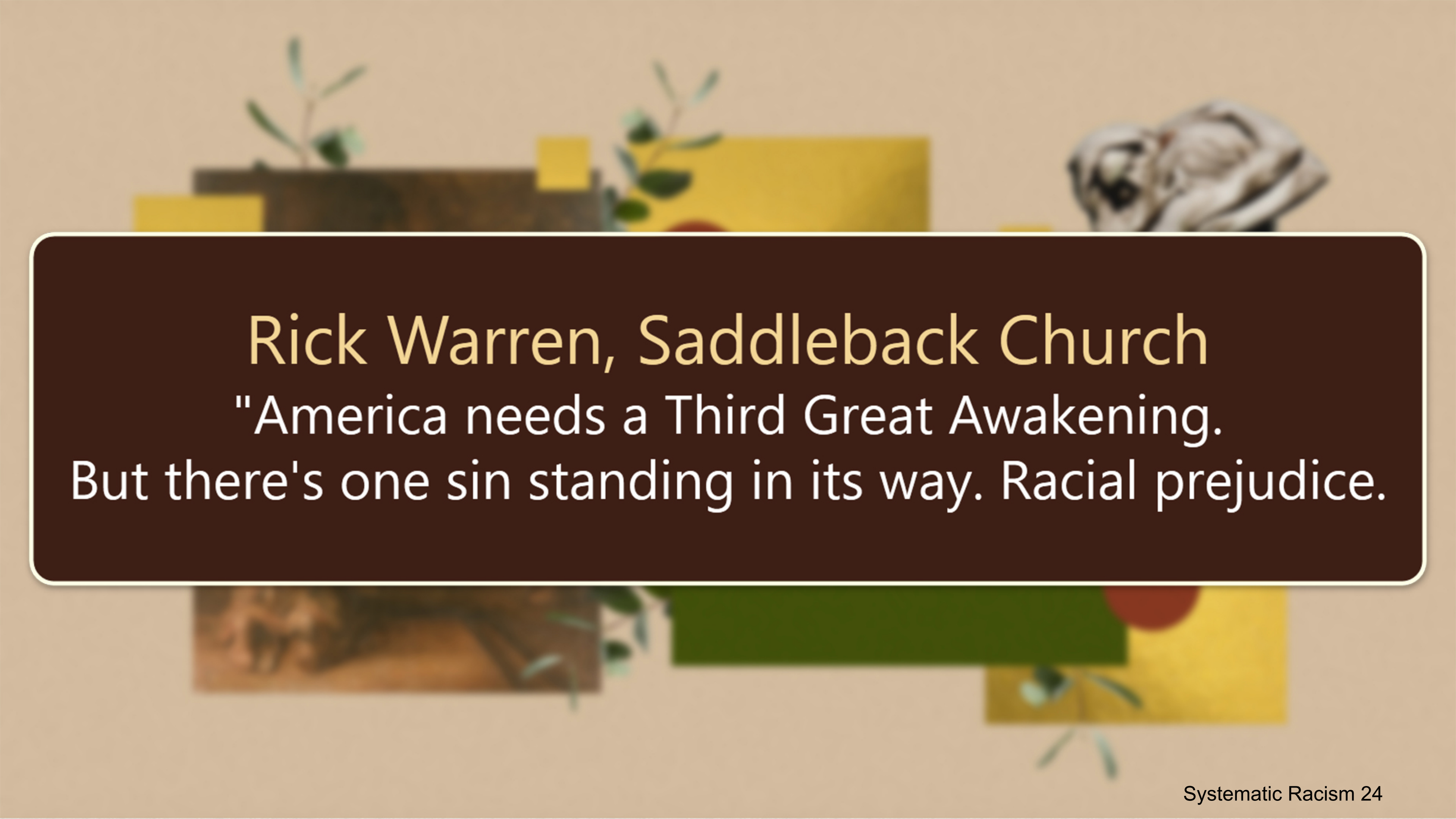
Joel Osteen, Lakewood Church,  
at a protest march

“This can be a turning point in our city, in our nation.”



- Southeast Christian Church
- Church of the Nazarene
- Assemblies of God
- Vineyard Churches
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church
- National Association of Evangelicals
- Seventh Day Adventists



The background of the slide is a blurred photograph. It shows several potted plants with green leaves in the upper left and center. On the right side, there is a small, light-colored dog, possibly a pug, looking towards the camera. The overall background is a warm, light beige color.

**Rick Warren, Saddleback Church**  
"America needs a Third Great Awakening.  
But there's one sin standing in its way. Racial prejudice."



## George & Laura Bush

“It remains a shocking failure that many African Americans, especially young African American men, are harassed and threatened in their own country.

It is a strength when protesters, protected by responsible law enforcement, march for a better future. This tragedy — in a long series of similar tragedies — raises a long overdue question: How do we end systemic racism in our society?



## George & Laura Bush

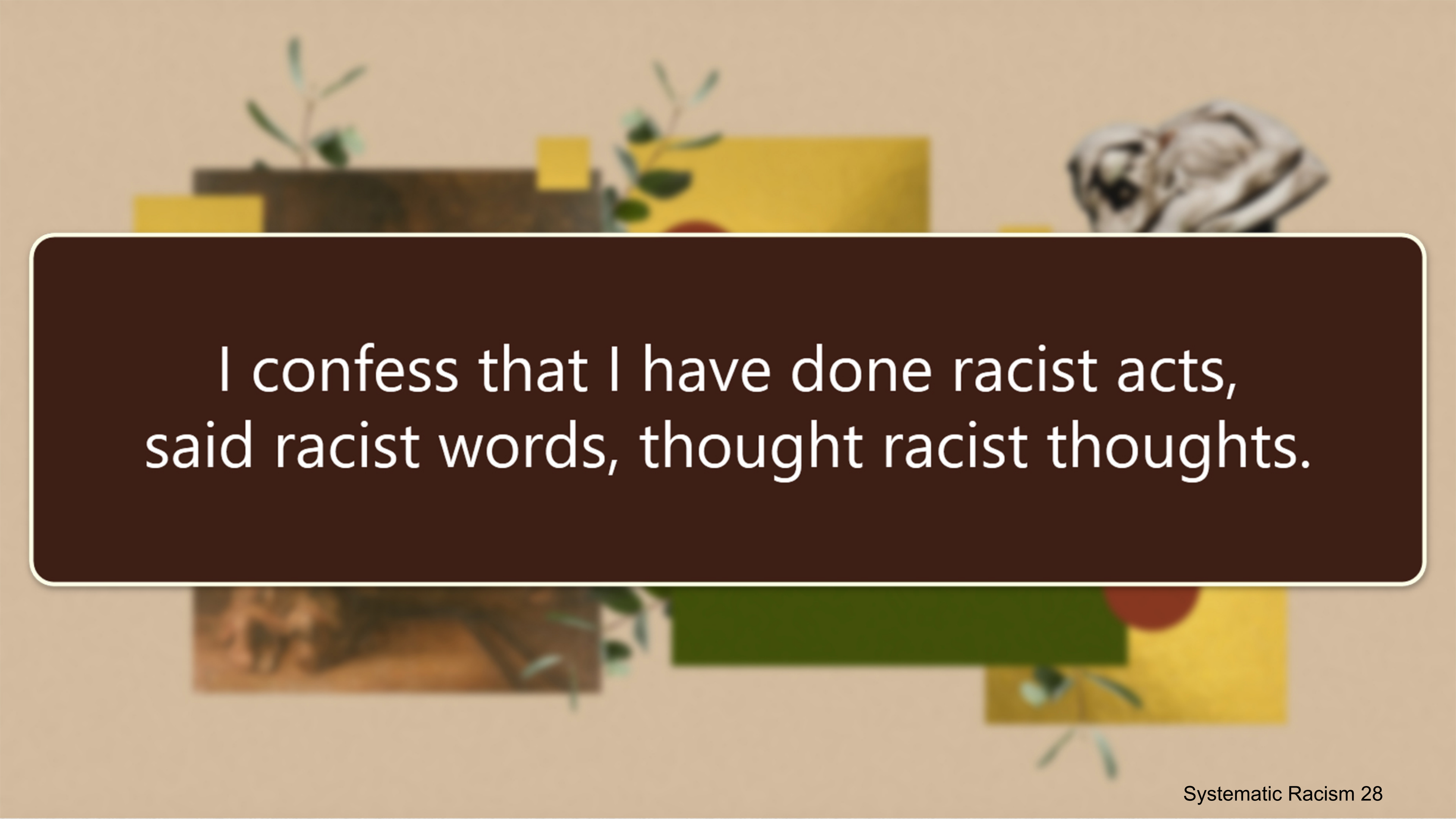
The only way to see ourselves in a true light is to listen to the voices of so many who are hurting and grieving. Those who set out to silence those voices do not understand the meaning of America — or how it becomes a better place"



## 1 Corinthians 5:12-13


It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you."





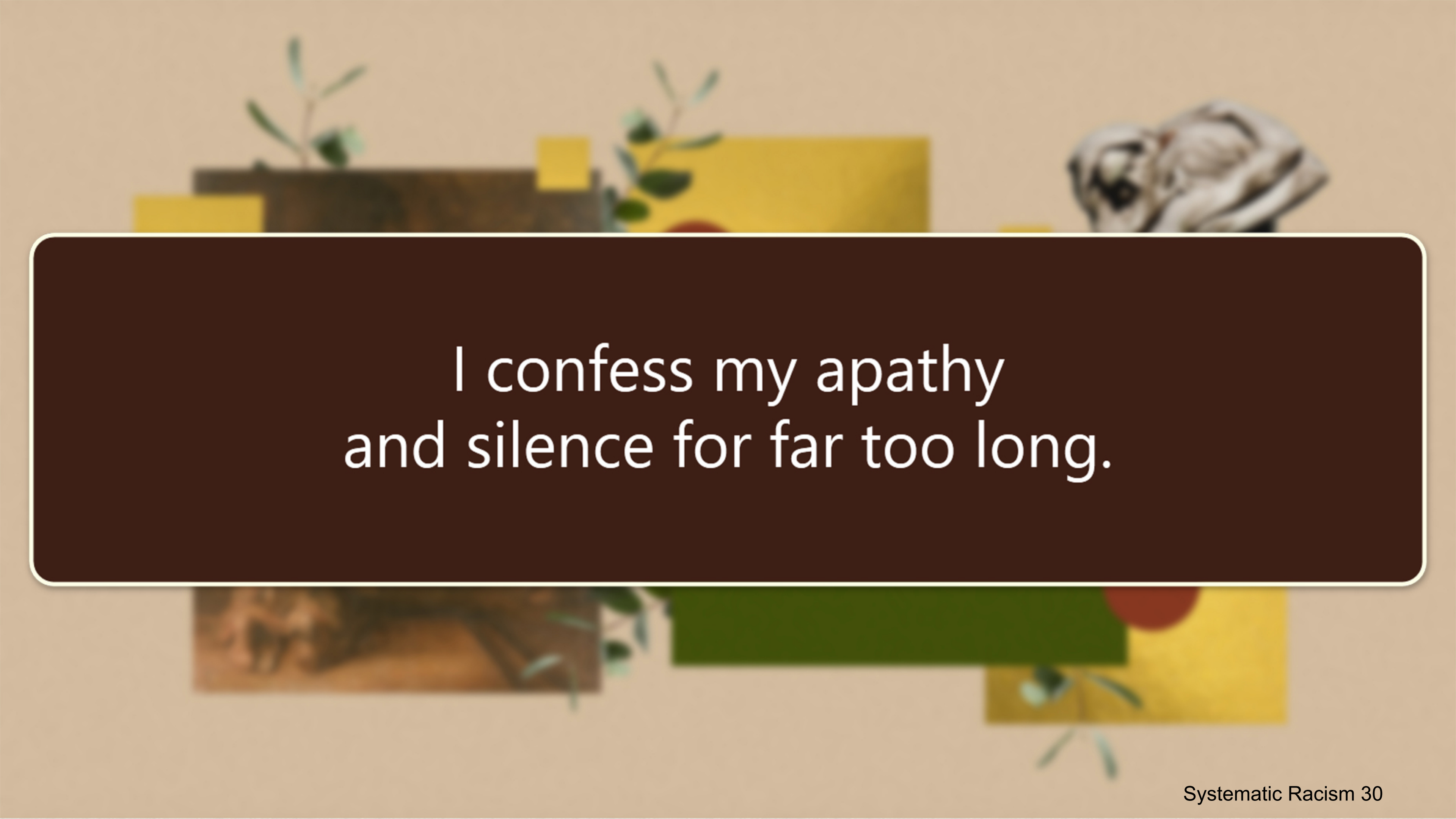
I confess that I have done racist acts,  
said racist words, thought racist thoughts.





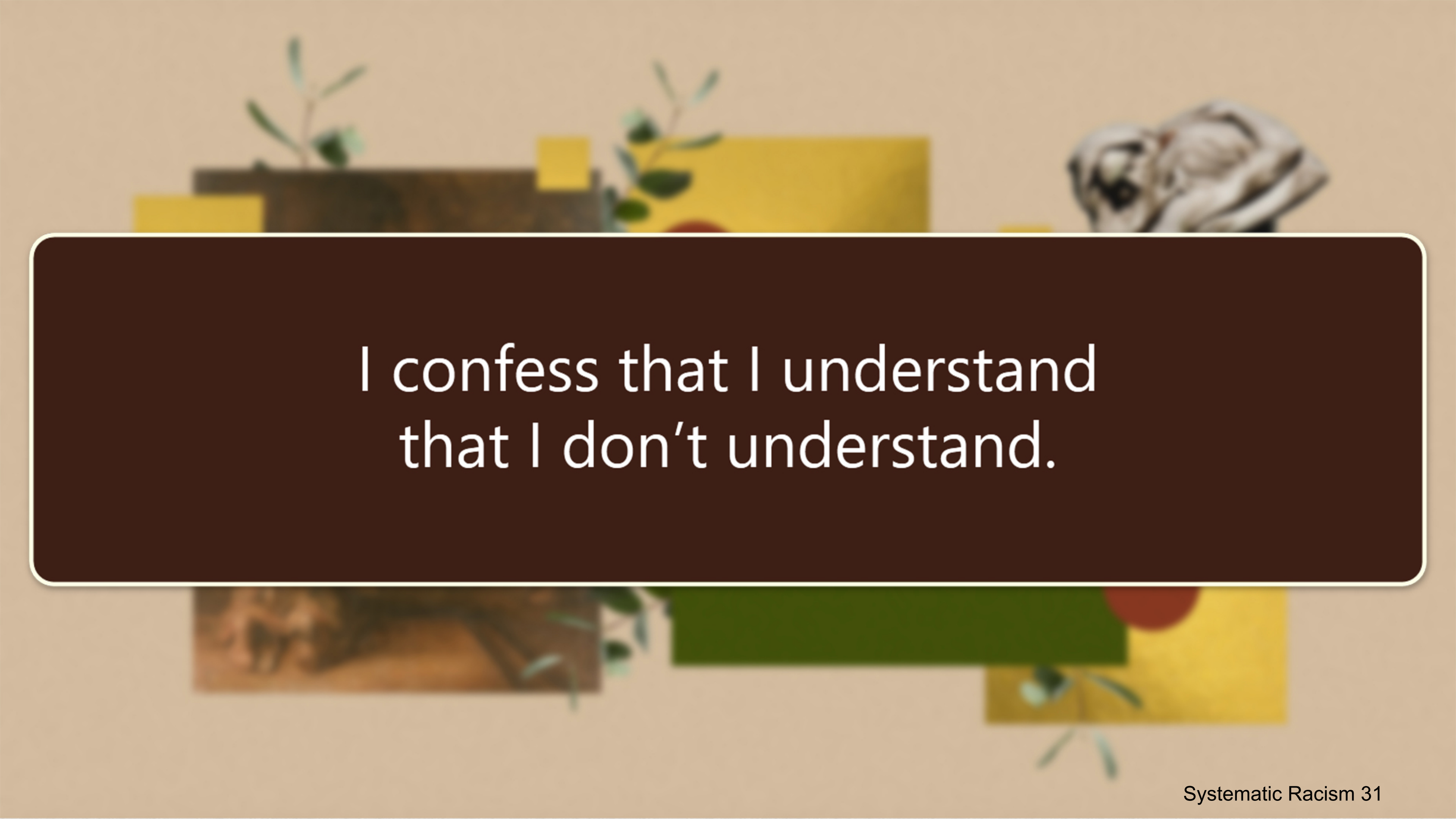
I confess I have participated in racist systems,  
sometimes knowingly and sometimes not.





I confess my apathy  
and silence for far too long.



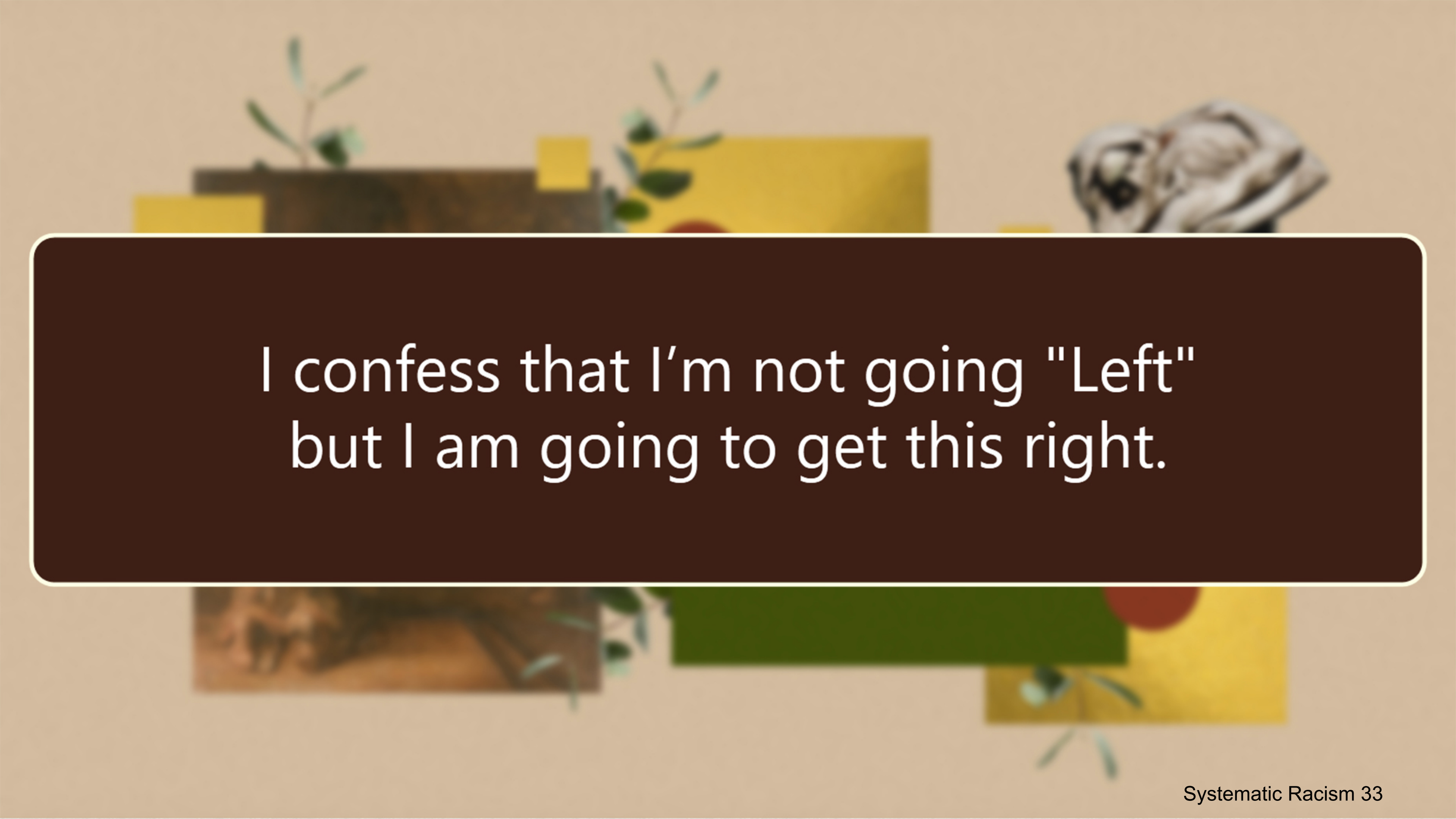


I confess that I understand  
that I don't understand.



Compounding the problem, the voices who are most loudly condemning American racism are also the voices [the Conservative] trusts the least on other issues—such as abortion, religious liberty, economics, or health care. Something in the conservative mind and heart rebels, "I can't join with them, can I?"





I confess that I'm not going "Left"  
but I am going to get this right.



## Kenneth Bailey, New Testament Professor of Middle Eastern Studies

It is the shepherd's willingness to go after the one that gives the ninety-nine their real security. If the one is sacrificed in the name of the larger good of the group, then each individual in the group is insecure... If lost, he or she will be left to die. When the shepherd pays a high price to find the one, he thereby offers the profoundest security to the many."



## Luke 18:9-14

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank You, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give You a tenth of my income.'"



## Luke 18:9-14

“But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner. ‘I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”