

from
death
to life
cross theology
part V

1. The resurrection was understood first as a vindication of Jesus.

The resurrection cast a retrospective light backwards validating His cross, claims, and place.



1. The resurrection was understood first as a vindication of Jesus.

2. The resurrection was understood second as a responsibility of ours.



Jesus: (*appears risen from dead*)

Disciples: "You're a ghost!"

Jesus: "Nope."

Disciples: "You're alive!?"

Jesus: "Yep."

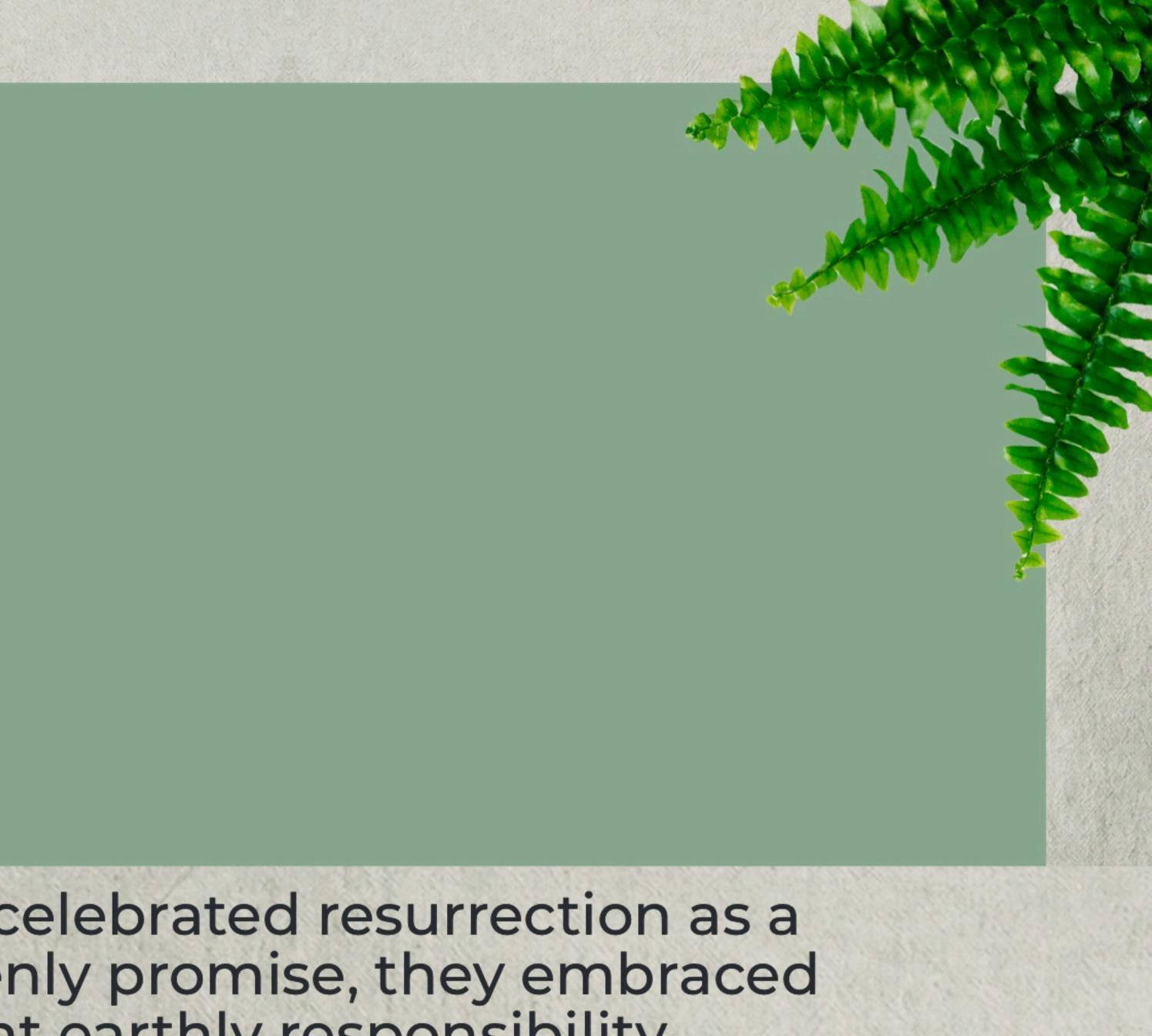
Disciple #1: "This changes everything."

Disciple #2: "We must tell everyone."

Disciple #3: "We have a job to do!"

Jesus: (*golf clap*)





Before they celebrated resurrection as a future heavenly promise, they embraced it as a present earthly responsibility.

Luke 24:46-49

And Jesus said [to the disciples], "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of His name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness' of sins for all who repent.' You are witnesses of all these things. "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as My Father promised."

Acts 1:8

[Jesus said to the disciples,] "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."

[Then He ascends to the throne.]

Mark 16:5-7

When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid His body. Now go and tell His disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there, just as He told you before He died." (See Mark 14:27-28 also.)

Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him—but some of them doubted! Jesus came and told His disciples, "I have been given all authority in Heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:16-20

"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

John 21:15-19

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "(1) Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "You know I love You." "Then feed My lambs," Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: "(2) Simon son of John, do you love Me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "You know I love You." "Then take care of My sheep," Jesus said. A third time He asked him, "(3) Simon son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time.

John 21:15-19

He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love You." Jesus said, "Then feed My sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow Me."

LUKE/ACTS

- Receive the Spirit
- Bear witness

MATTHEW

- Make disciples by:
 - Growing
 - Baptizing
 - Teaching

MARK

- Gather the gang
- Meet in Galilee

JOHN

- Feed the sheep
- Follow Me

1. The resurrection was understood first as a vindication of Jesus.

2. The resurrection was understood second as a responsibility of ours.

Before they celebrated resurrection as a future heavenly promise, they embraced it as a present earthly responsibility.

Question #1 - What's the job?



LUKE/ACTS

- Receive the Spirit
- Bear witness

MATTHEW

- Make disciples by:
 - Growing
 - Baptizing
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MARK

- Gather the gang
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1. They led others to Jesus. Acts 2:38-41

Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God." Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!" Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

2. They built a tight knit community around truth, worship, and fellowship.

Acts 2:42-43, 46-47

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders... They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God...

3. They cared for each other's needs.

Acts 2:44-45, 4:32,34-35

And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had... There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.



...[The church was] enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.



Realized Eschatology - "Our On-the-Job Mindset"

We move the world toward heaven. Resurrection life has begun Jesus' resurrection, but it is not done until ours. We live between the two comings, the two resurrections, so what do we do as we wait? We don't wait. We anticipate.

15 - Eternal Glory

- 14c Whole Life Surrender
- 14b Kingdom Building
- 14a Agents of Shalom/Reconciliation
- 13 Developing Missional Consciousness
- 12 Progressive Spiritual Formation
- 11 Invest in Intentional Community
- 10 Assimilation into Christian Lifestyle
- 9 Baptism & New Creation
- 8 Decision to Surrender & Repent
- 7 Recognition of Own Sin, Need, Mortality
- 6 Positive Disposition
- 5 Understands Jesus
- 4 Interest in Christianity
- 3 Awareness of Christianity
- 2 Open to Spiritual Realm
- 1 Closed Off to God



Question #2 - What's the problem?

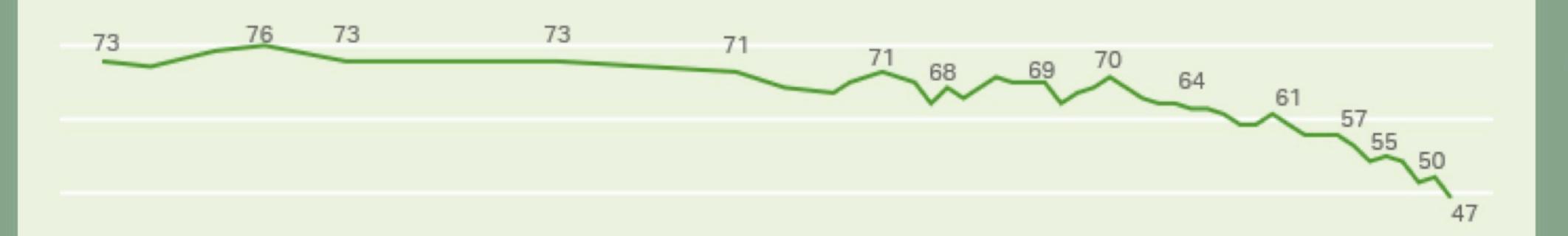
Gallup Study

- -In 2020, 47% of U.S. adults belonged to a church, synagogue or mosque.
- -That's down over 20 points from turn of the century.
- -Younger people are far more likely to claim no religious preference.

Church Membership Among U.S. Adults Now Below 50%

Do you happen to be a member of a church, synagogue or mosque?

- % Yes, member



1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020

Based on annual aggregated data, usually based on two surveys

GALLUP

"We now see young evangelicals walking away from evangelicalism not because they do not believe what the church teaches, but because they believe the church itself does not believe what the church teaches... If people reject the church because they reject Jesus and the gospel, we should be saddened but not surprised. But what happens when people reject the church because they think we reject Jesus and the gospel? And what if people don't leave the church because they disapprove of Jesus, but because they've read the Bible and have come to the conclusion that the church itself would disapprove of Jesus? That's a crisis."

The church will be reborn in every generation but, as the prophet Jeremiah warned Jerusalem, "Don't be fooled by those who promise you safety simply because the Lord's temple is here...Do you really think you can steal, murder, commit adultery, lie and burn incense to Baal and all those other new gods of yours, and then come here and stand before Me in my Temple and chant, 'we are safe!'—only to go right back to all those evils again?" (Jer. 7:4, 8-10 NLT).

The church will survive—even here in Americabut, along the way, a lot of fifteen year-olds will be hurt. A lot of them will conclude that the gospel is just one more aspect of political theater or outrage culture or institutional self-perpetuation or worse. They will be wrong, of course, but, as Jesus put it, "woe to the person through whom the stumbling block comes" (Matt. 18:7 NASB). We are losing a generation not because they are secularists, but because they believe we are." -- Dr. Russell Moore, President of ERLC

Question #2 - What's the problem? We are.

Question #3 - How do we solve the problem?



Question #2 - What's the problem? We are.

Question #3 - How do we solve the problem?
Not defensiveness.



Question #2 - What's the problem? We are.

Question #3 - How do we solve the problem?
Not by blaming the millennials.



Question #2 - What's the problem? We are.

Question #3 - How do we solve the problem?
Not by losing confidence or feeling shame.



Question #2 - What's the problem? We are.

Question #3 - How do we solve the problem?
Not by abandoning Christianity altogether.



Question #2 - What's the problem? We are.

Question #3 - How do we solve the problem?
Not by rewriting Scripture.



Question #2 - What's the problem? We are.

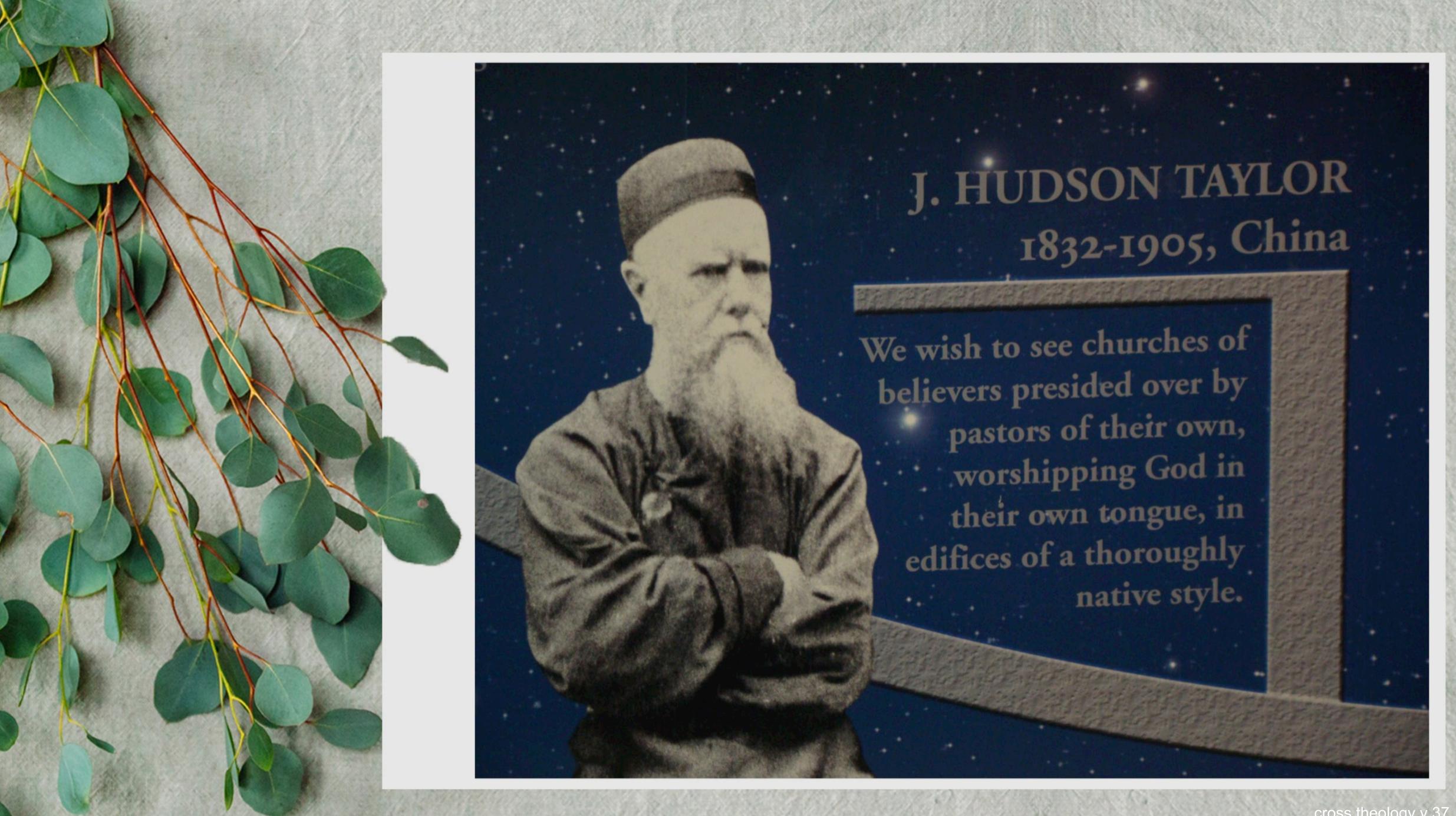
Question #3 - How do we solve the problem?
Not by rethinking a new game plan.



Question #2 - What's the problem? We are.

Question #3 - How do we solve the problem?
We move the world towards heaven.





"I have found that there are three stages in every great work of God: first, it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done."