

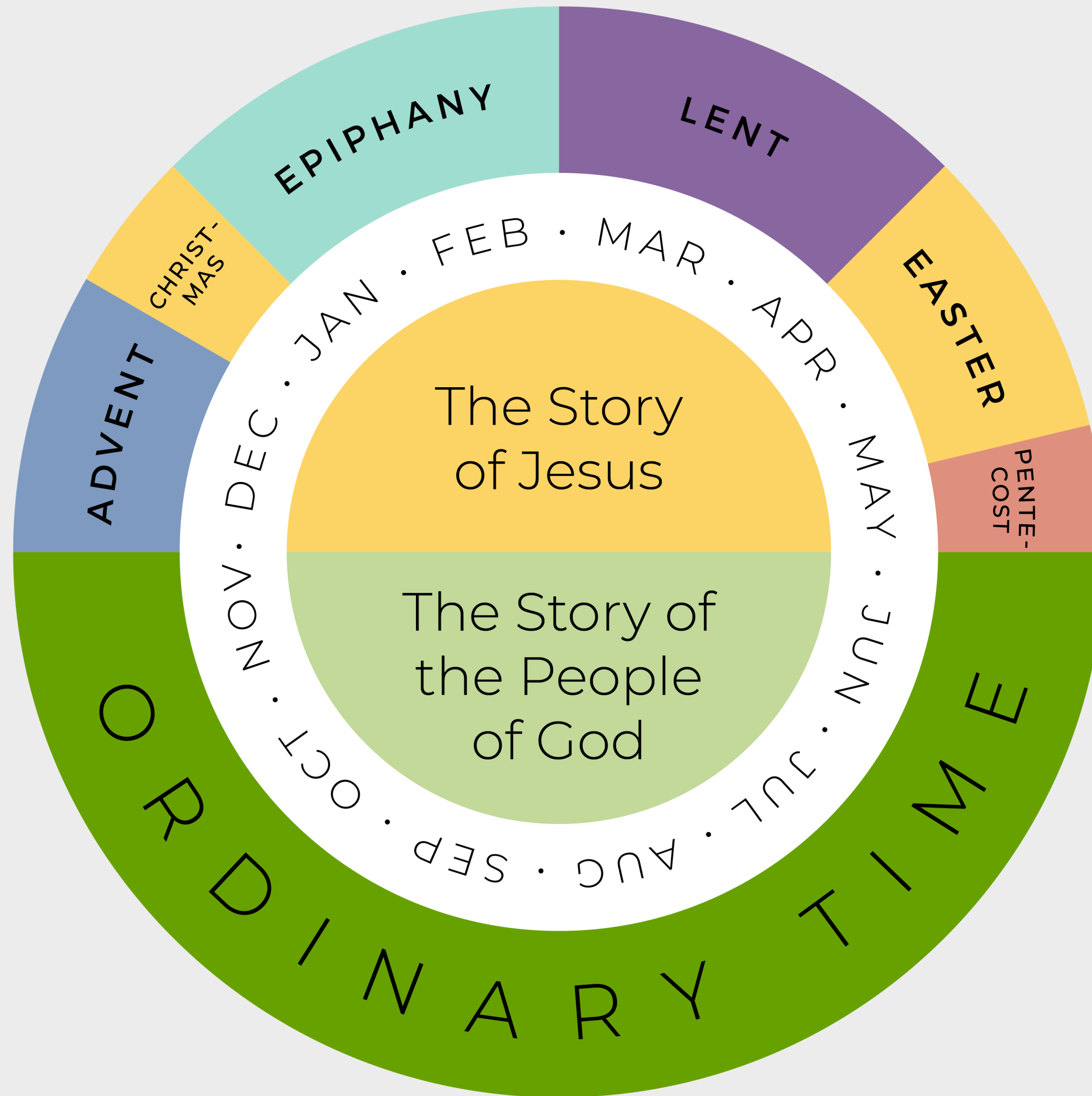
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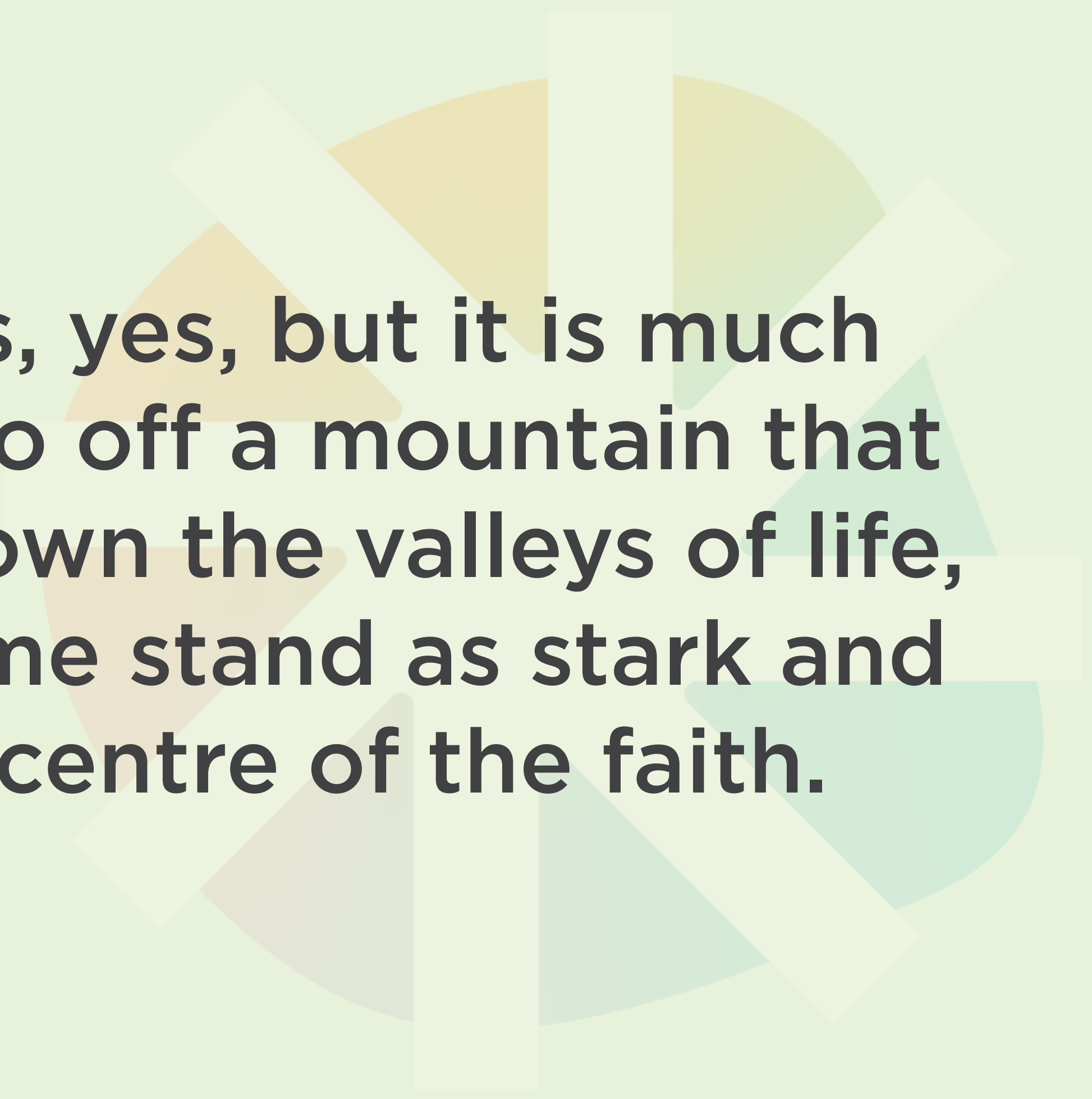
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Ordinary Time

Matthew 13:24-30,
36-43








It is the time between times, yes, but it is much more than that. Like an echo off a mountain that ripples and repeats itself down the valleys of life, the Sundays of Ordinary Time stand as stark and repeating reminders of the centre of the faith.

Joan Chittister

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 *[page 684]*





Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable.

Matthew 13:34

Parable:

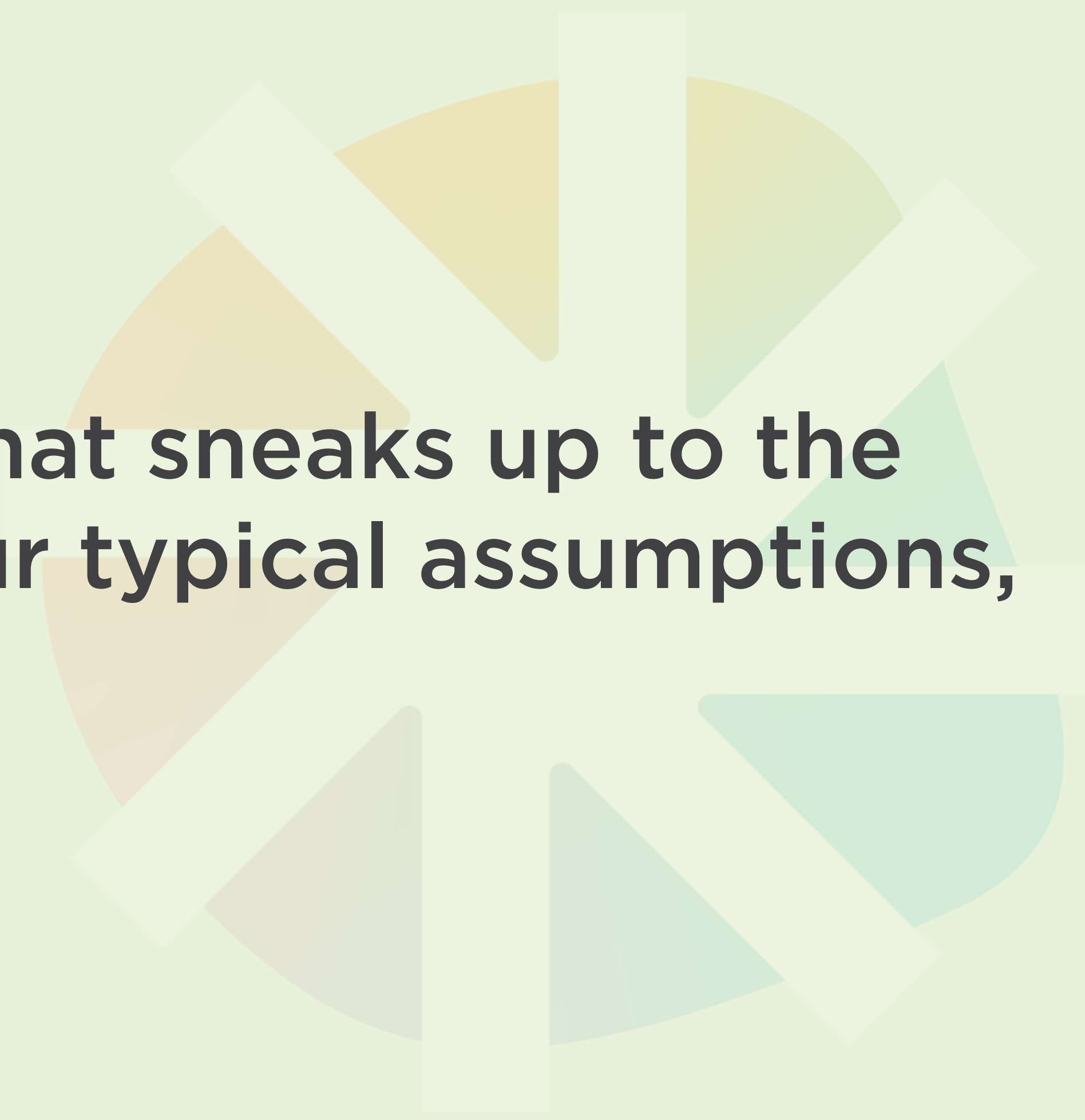
para - “to come alongside”

ballein - “to throw”



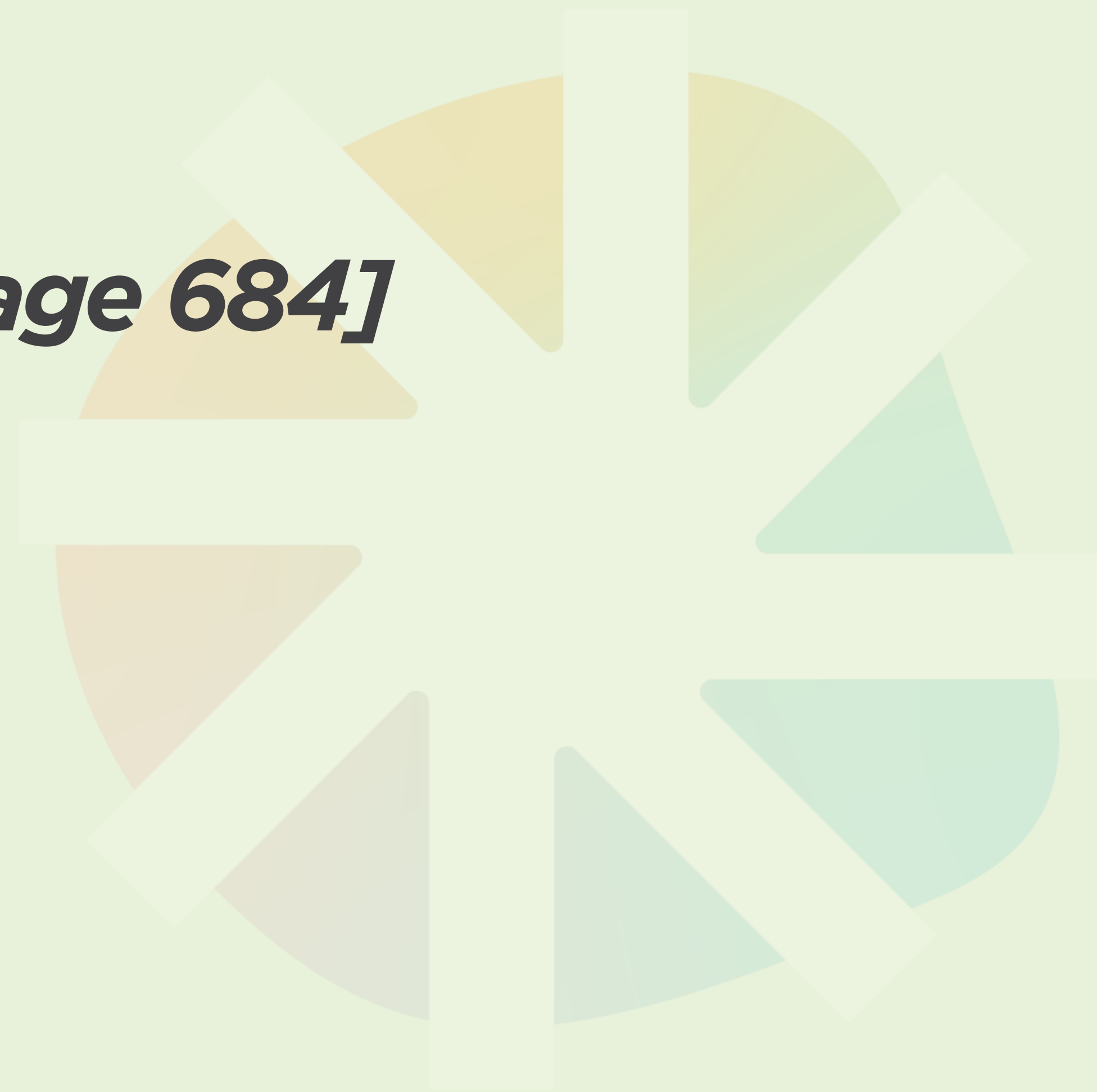
In effect, the parables are Jesus coming alongside us and ripping off our cozy theological comforters. Parables should leave us gasping, out in the doctrinal cold, shaking with anger, awe, or surprise. Nothing is as we thought. The whole point of a parable is to disturb and perplex us, shaking up what we believe to be true, all without providing an easy answer or simple moral to fall back upon.

Diana Butler Bass



A Jesus parable is a story that sneaks up to the table on which we've set our typical assumptions, and flips it upside-down.

Matthew 13:24 *[page 684]*





Jesus talks of God by talking of things.

Dale Bruner

Matthew 13:25-26 *[page 684]*



Matthew 13:27-28 *[page 684]*



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BUT THIS ISN'T
WHAT I PLANTED!!

BULLYING

DISCRIMINATION

HATE

MISOGYNY

FUNDAMENTALISM

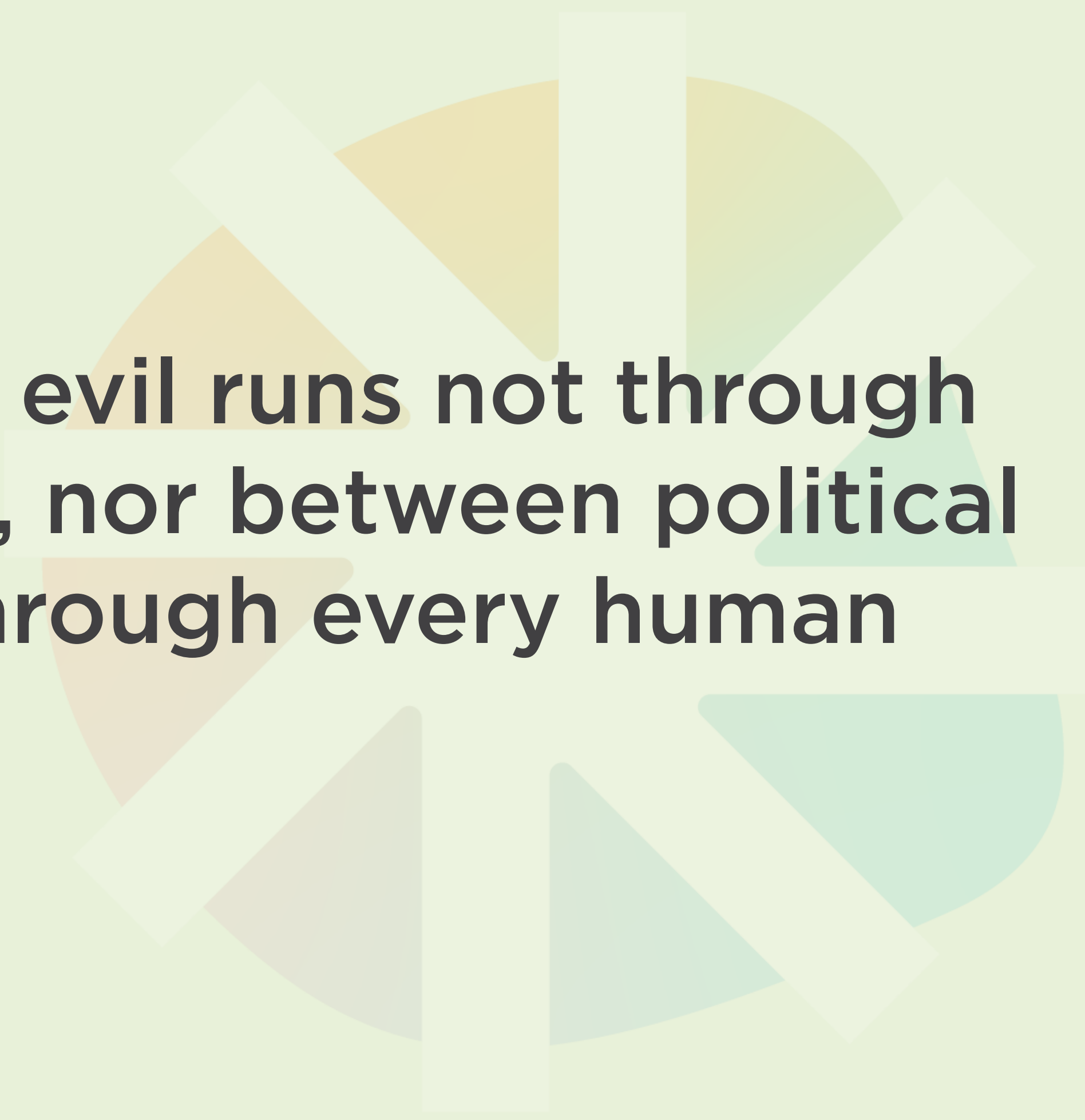
SEXISM

STUPIDITY

RACISM

ABUSE

DIVISION

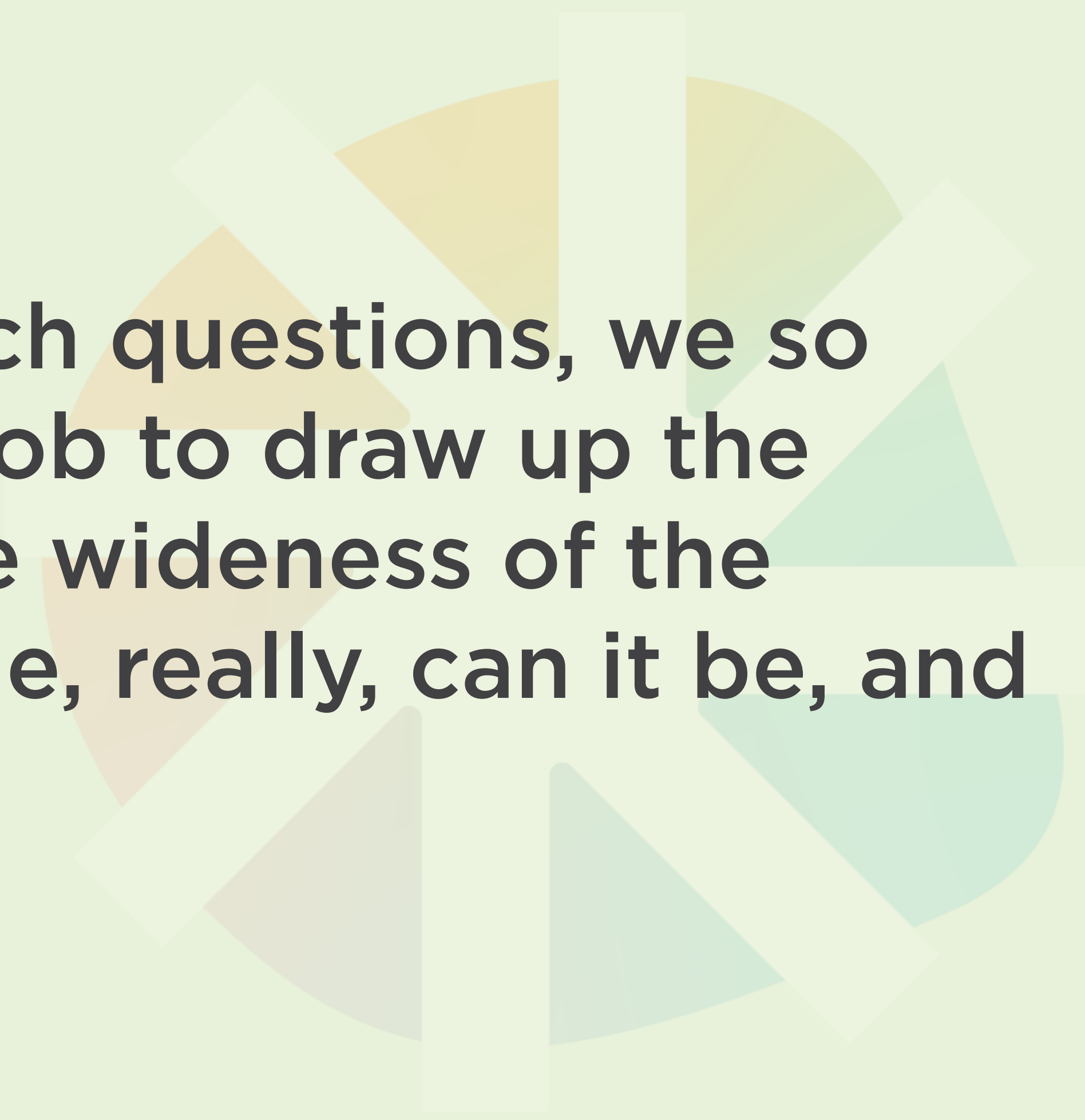


The line between good and evil runs not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either — but right through every human heart.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Matthew 13:29-30 *[page 684]*



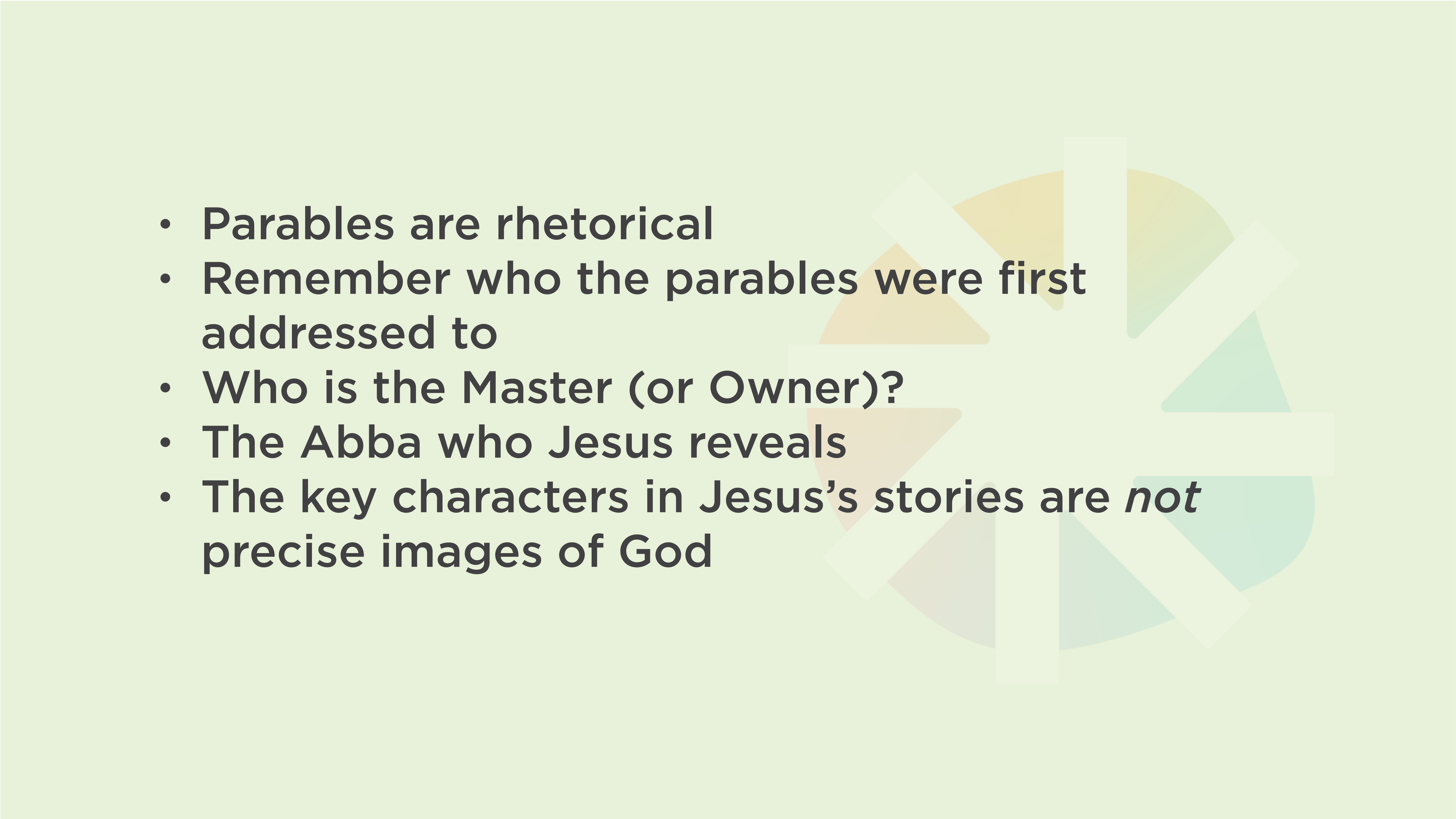


In the very act of asking such questions, we so often assume that it is our job to draw up the specifications regarding the wideness of the church's welcome. How wide, really, can it be, and still be the church?

Theodore J. Wardlaw

Matthew 13:37-43 *[page 685]*



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- Parables are rhetorical
 - Remember who the parables were first addressed to
 - Who is the Master (or Owner)?
 - The Abba who Jesus reveals
 - The key characters in Jesus's stories are *not* precise images of God

None of this makes reading the parables easy or any less awkward. They're not all meant to be experienced as sunshine and roses. They pierce the heart on purpose. But we're being pierced by love in order to walk out of the parable into a new and more beautiful way of being, where the Crucified God becomes our anchor and revelation of God's all-merciful nature.

Brad Jersak

NELSON BOSCHMAN

THE
**GR
OW
ING** SEASON

Contemplations
on Wine and
the Soul

FOREWORD by LOIS CHO

